

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 195

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2019

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

NEW REGS FOR CHINA-ONLY CNMI PAROLE

14 days for Chinese tourists

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In an obvious move to curb birth tourism and overstaying in the CNMI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, has pared down to just 14 days the period Chinese tourists can visit the Commonwealth under parole authority.

Effective tomorrow, Oct. 3, 2019, the CBP, through a statement citing a previously published Federal Register

Notice effectively omitting the Russian Federation from being eligible for the CNMI-on-

See Chinese on Page 4

PSS receives \$1.7M to end FY19

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has confirmed that it has received the remaining \$1.7 million owed by the CNMI government last Monday. Education Commissioner Glenn Muña confirmed yesterday that PSS received the remittance of the remaining \$1.7

million owed from the Department of Finance in order to close out fiscal year 2019.

Muña said that PSS is expected to receive \$37.7 million for its FY 2020 budget. He noted that they previously sent separate proposals to the Legislature; with the first part of the proposal requesting to increase the

See PSS on Page 4



Muña



MARCH FOR EDUCATION

Many concerned educators, students, and community members exercised their First Amendment rights yesterday, as they briefly showed signs to cars passing by. Shortly after, the group marched to the Minachom Atdao Pavilion to convene with government leaders and officials of the Public School System and the CNMI Board of Education regarding the financial matters of PSS.

MARC A. VENUS

IPI faces 3 other suits in local court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is facing at least three other lawsuits filed in the Superior Court for alleged

failure to pay apartments rent and over a vehicular accident.

Saipan Dream Corp. and JSJ Co. Ltd., through counsel Stephen J. Nutting, filed separate lawsuits against IPI for alleged non-payment of rent,

utilities and other charges for its use of apartments units located in Navy Hill, Saipan.

Mika Hirase, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, is also suing IPI for her alleged in-

See IPI on Page 4

PC Bargain loses \$20K worth of gadgets to burglars

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A well-known electronics gadget store was burglarized early Tuesday morning. The Department of Public Safety

received a 911 call at about 2:25am regarding a burglary and theft incident at the PC Bargain electronic store.

Once officers arrived to the scene, they noticed a breached wooden wall exposing the

store and a white shelf was left open with shattered glass on the floor. DPS reports that the items missing from PC Bargain are a Samsung Gear Black Watch, one Sam-

See BURGLARS on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

N15 Architects extended its expertise to build residential homes that will answer two needs of the islands—affordability and resistance to super typhoons.

PAGE 13



ASIA

South Korea on Tuesday displayed some of its newly purchased U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighter jets for the first time.

PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE

Joaquin Phoenix has been widely praised for his transformative portrayal of the man who becomes the Joker in the new film hitting theaters this Thursday.

PAGE 20



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

SIBLINGS OF DEAD ELECTRICIAN SAY:

Ex-employer tried to withdraw from deceased's bank account

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The six siblings of the electrician who died and left behind \$20,794 in a bank account, have accused the administrator of the deceased's estate of bad faith for disclosing for the first time the \$240,077 in hospital bill incurred by the deceased.

The siblings/heirs, through counsel Charity Hodson, said Juan A. Gacayan, the administrator of the estate of deceased Eduardo Ocampo David, also tried to withdraw from David's bank account weeks before he died in October 2018.

Gacayan recently revealed that there is a potential claim by the Commonwealth Health Center for David's hospital bill that Gacayan received from CHC after David died.

Gacayan is also former employer of David. David was reportedly a contract worker employee of Gacayan for the period Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018. David, a Filipino, passed away at the age of 60 at CHC on Oct. 15, 2018. His remains were brought to the Philippines last November.

In the siblings' pleadings filed before the Superior Court, Hodson said Gacayan states that he received the hospital bill for David, but does not state that he paid for it.

Hodson said if Gacayan only received the bill, and did not

pay for it, this is another omission by Gacayan that he lied to the court on several occasions.

Hodson also cited alleged four lies committed by Gacayan.

The lawyer said first, when Gacayan filed the petition to administer the David estate, he stated that he was not aware of any debt left by David.

She said second, when Gacayan filed the inventory of the estate, he stated that he is unaware of any debt by David.

Third, Hodson said, when he filed a petition for decree of final distribution, Gacayan told the court that there were no known creditors of the estate.

Finally, the lawyer said, when Gacayan filed the most recent amended petition to administer the estate, he again stated he was unaware of any debts left by David.

She also pointed out that the hospital bill that Gacayan submitted is an unredacted CHC bill containing David's personal information that is one page out of 12.

The lawyer said it is not proof of payment, it is only proof that there is a potential claim by CHC against the estate.

Hodson said Gacayan falsely represents to the court that he incurred attorney's fees and costs "as the appointed attorney in fact by David's sisters" and informs the court that he has expended \$7,000 in legal fees.

Hodson said Gacayan is not the appointed attorney in fact for David's sister.

The lawyer said Gacayan held a special power of attorney for David's sister, Maria Gina O. David-Cuenco, alone.

She noted that the special power of attorney executed by David-Cuenco did not authorize Gacayan to incur legal fees for the probate of the estate.

Hodson said the special power of attorney only and specifically covers acquiring information and facilitating the closure of David's bank account.

Hodson said Gacayan claims that he did not have legal counsel when he filed the inventory and the petition for final distribution and made the unadvised decision not to file his creditor claim and instead to proceed to final distribution and to offset said expenses.

"This is factually inaccurate," said Hodson, pointing out that Gacayan was represented by counsel Joey Patrick San Nicolas when he filed the most recent amended petition to administer the estate which also did not disclose any creditor claim by Gacayan.

She said Gacayan cannot credibly claim \$7,000 incurred in attorney's fees and costs and in the same breath state that he was not advised by counsel.

Hodson said Gacayan should not be able to recover any attorney's fees and costs for filings made in bad faith and filled with misrepresentations to the court.

Hodson said Gacayan informed the court that prior to David's death, he was in communications with three of David's sisters.

She said Gacayan claims that the three sisters executed a special power of attorney, appointing Gacayan as their attorney in fact for the purpose of inquiring and accessing information related to David's bank account.

"This is incorrect," Hodson said.

She pointed out that David-Cuenco executed a special power of attorney to allow Gacayan to access David's bank account and to facilitate its withdrawal or closure.

She said the two sisters witnessed the special power of attorney, but it was only David-Cuenco that executed the special power of attorney.

Hodson said the special power of attorney did not authorize Gacayan to represent her interest in the estate, to open the probate of David's estate on her behalf, or to authorize David to unilaterally attempt to have all proceeds of David's bank account distributed only to Gacayan, without any notice to the heirs.

Hodson said several months prior to David's death, Gacayan's daughter communicated with David-Cuenco because Gacayan wanted to withdraw money from David's bank account allegedly to pay for David's hospital bill.

She said Gacayan sent over a power of attorney he had apparently drafted for David's signature but was never executed, possibly because David was already so ill.

She noted that the special power of attorney was executed on Sept. 27, 2018, two weeks prior to David's death on Oct. 15, 2018.

Hodson said Gacayan was attempting to withdraw and exercise control over David's bank account before he was even dead.

On Gacayan's claim that he and his employees performed bedside watch for David at CHC, incurring 312 employee

See ACCOUNT on Page 4



The Best Gaming Club in Saipan

WELCOME TO Fabulous SAIPAN VEGAS
GOLF RESORT & SLOT CLUB

OCTOBER PLAYER PROMOTIONS

THE RETURN OF PLINKO

Win \$500 on our Plinko Hourly Draw Saturday Night Cash Draws from 9:00pm - 1:00am on October 12 & 26.

With over \$19,000 of Cash and Vouchers to be won!

Come and play today and be the next Big Winner!

Hello Saipan Businessmen and Businesswomen,

We are looking for new or used
METAL WAREHOUSE RACKS
that can hold pallet size storage.



If you have extras for sale call Perry at 234-1794.

DUE TO APPEAL**Judge rules he cannot hear lawyer's motion anymore**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has ruled that he cannot hear anymore attorney Vincent Deleon Guerrero Torres' motion to clarify his decision that dismissed the claims in the lawyer's lawsuit against E-Land World Co. Ltd. and others.

In his order issued Friday, Camacho said because Torres appealed the dismissal decision to the CNMI Supreme Court, the Superior Court as the trial court no longer has jurisdiction to address the lawyer's motion for clarification.

Quoting Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona in a published opinion involving a probate matter, Camacho said "the filing of a notice of appeal is an event of jurisdictional significance—it confers jurisdiction on the court of appeals and divests

the [trial] court of its control over those aspects of the case involved in the appeal."

Camacho said Manglona ruled that "once a notice of appeal has been filed, a trial court generally does not have jurisdiction to rule on a motion..."

In dismissing Torres' claims last Aug. 26, Camacho ruled that the lawyer lacks standing to maintain claims for corporate harm as direct actions as such claims must be brought derivatively regardless of the size of the corporation.

A derivative action refers to a lawsuit brought by a shareholder of a corporation on behalf of the corporation to enforce or defend a legal right or claim.

Last Sept. 23, Torres, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, filed a notice informing the Superior Court of his appeal from the dismissal order. Torres seeks the reversal of the order.



Torres

Man arrested for theft of bag with \$14K inside

The Department of Public Safety arrested Newton Tmarsel last Sunday for alleged theft of a bag containing about \$14,000 at the ViVi Wedding Photo in Garapan.

At about 11:51am that day police received a 911 call reporting a theft incident at the establishment and officers were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, officers met with the caller who stated that a male individual walked into the establishment and took the victim's blue Michael Kors bag with about \$14,000 cash inside.



Tmarsel

While at the scene a group of individuals directed the officers' attention to an individual walking nearby, claiming that he was the person responsible for taking the bag from the establishment.

One of the officers secured the individual and placed him in the police car, as the other officer continued to take the victim's statement.

The victim showed the officer the surveillance footage of the incident. The officer noticed at about 11:31am, a suspect with no shirt and gray pants entered the establishment's front door and took the blue bag, before walking out and leaving the scene.

As the officer was review-

ing the security footage a friend of the victim found the blue Michael Kors bag with about \$1,470 still inside the bag after it had been tossed at the back of the building.

The second officer patted down the individual and found \$1,345 in Tmarsel's pocket. When the suspect was asked where was the rest of the money he stated that he did take the money to buy clothes. Tmarsel stated that he put some of the money in his pocket and hid the bag with some money behind the building. The suspect said he then made his way back to his apartment to change clothes. On the way home, Tmarsel said he saw a friend and gave his friend an unknown amount of money.

At 1:21pm, the officer then placed Tmarsel under arrest for theft.

The suspect was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was cleared, before he was transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety highly encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime or an emergency. (PR)

The following day, Sept. 24, Torres filed a motion for clarification of Camacho's Aug. 26 dismissal order.

Torres seeks clarification whether the dismissal of the three claims is with prejudice or without prejudice and whether he will have an opportunity to file an amended complaint.

Dismiss with prejudice bars Torres from re-filing the claims, while without prejudice allows him to re-file them.

Fitzgerald said Camacho states that the third, fourth, and fifth causes of action in Torres' complaint "will be dismissed" appears to be a dismissal, without specifying "with prej-

udice" or "without prejudice."

Fitzgerald said Camacho did address the second cause of action and at no point in the order where a dismissal is granted.

"A fair reading of the order is that this cause of action can proceed as a direct action and a scheduling order would be warranted," Fitzgerald said.

Torres had earlier expressed disappointment with the dismissal of his three claims.

Torres said the court's order states that he should file the claim as derivative lawsuit on behalf of the corporation, but that as far as he is concerned there are only two shareholders of Suwaso Corp.

E-Land is the majority shareholder of the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Suwaso Corp. owns COP.

Torres said Yusuke Fumoto sold all of his shares to Micronesia Resort Inc., which leaves only him (Torres) and MRI as the shareholders of Suwaso Corp.

In the Aug. 26 decision, Camacho dismissed Torres' claims for fraudulent concealment and usurpation of corporate opportunity, breach of fiduciary duty, and assisting a breach of fiduciary duty.

Camacho ruled that shareholders lack standing to maintain claims for corporate harms as direct actions, and

such claims must be brought derivatively, regardless of the size of the corporation.

Torres sued the defendants for allegedly failing to provide a proper accounting, embarking upon a scheme to misappropriate business opportunities and funds, and negotiating loans over \$5 million without proper authorization.

See **JUDGE** on Next Page

ARMATECH

RF Door Lock
System Services
& Maintenance

Tel: (670) 234-8895/97 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

GRAB THE DOUGH & GO!

GET 30 SECONDS IN OUR MONEY MACHINE WITH EVERY NEW VEHICLE PURCHASE!

2012 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL
13,371 MILES • STOCK # 2P272
\$11,995 SALE PRICE \$140 PER PAYCHECK
• 2.0 L ENGINE • AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION • POWER WINDOWS & DOOR LOCKS • AM/FM CD PLAYER

2014 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE
SALE PRICE \$11,995
4HS580 • 32,000 MILES

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT
SALE PRICE \$13,995
7HS779 • 20,880 MILES

2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
SALE PRICE \$13,995
6HS682 • 26,627 MILES

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GL
SALE PRICE \$13,995
7HS774 • 26,627 MILES

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GL
SALE PRICE \$13,995
7HS781 • 19,019 MILES

2014 MAZDA MAZDA 6
SALE PRICE \$13,995
4P273 • 34,346 MILES

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT
SALE PRICE \$13,995
7R211 • 25,115 MILES

2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL
SALE PRICE \$16,995
6HS730 • 17,612 MILES

2016 KIA SEDONA
SALE PRICE \$17,995
6HS718 • 36,060 MILES

ALL PRE-OWNED VEHICLES COMES WITH 3 MONTH / 3,000 MILE WARRANTY

2017 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
SALE PRICE \$17,995
7R207 • 22,359 MILES

2016 MAZDA MAZDA CX-5 TOURING
SALE PRICE \$18,995
6HS787 • 8,458 MILES

2016 MAZDA MAZDA 3 GRAND TOURING
SALE PRICE \$18,995
6P246 • 14,000 MILES

2016 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD
SALE PRICE \$21,995
6HS785 • 19,502 MILES

2015 FORD TRANSIT LOW ROOF XLT
SALE PRICE \$21,995
5HS656 • 46,253 MILES

2016 FORD TRANSIT HIGH ROOF
SALE PRICE \$34,995
6HS743 • 50,000 MILES



*While supplies last. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other promotion or offer. Vehicles not exactly as shown. On approved credit. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is \$2,500.

TRIPLE J MAZDA • HYUNDAI • MITSUBISHI
TEL: 234-7133 / 234-3051 | FAX: 234-3052

triplejsaipan.com

MON-FRI: 8AM-5PM
SAT: 8AM-5PM

CHINESE

From Page 1

ly parole authority, announced that there would be new requirements imposed on both airline carriers and Chinese tourists before they can enter the CNMI.

Chinese tourists are only allowed to enter the CNMI through the parole program for a maximum 14-day stay in the CNMI instead of the previously allotted 45 days; should be in possession of a roundtrip ticket that is non-refundable, non-transferable, and not without a departure date exceeding the allotted 14-day stay; have not been previously removed, barred, or banned from enter-

ing the United States, to include the CNMI; have not been unlawfully present in the United States, to include the CNMI; have not been previously denied a U.S. B1/B2, business, or tourist visa, further clarifying that the People's Republic of China nationals previously denied a visa do not qualify for the parole program; be in possession of a completed and signed Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Information form, also known as a CBP Form I-736; and be in possession of a valid unexpired ICAO-compliant, machine-readable passport.

Recommendations heeded

In October last year, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres requested the initiation of 902 Consultation with the U.S. government regarding the Commonwealth's continued access to visitors under DHS' discretionary parole program.

Last May 15, Torres and U.S. Special Representative Douglas W. Domenech provided President Donald J. Trump with the report of the 902 Consultations.

Torres and Domenech made four recommendations, among them to modify the discretionary parole program to reduce the maximum period of parole from 45 days to 14 and electronic screening and vetting prior to arrival at the port of entry.

HK, Macau not part of parole program

Further narrowing the qualifications of Chinese tourists, the CBP also noted that only citizens specific to the People's Republic of China are eligible for the parole program. Citizens of China's Special Administrative Regions Hong Kong and Macau are ineligible to enter the CNMI through the parole program, meaning they have to first secure U.S. visas to enter.

According to the CBP regulations carriers could only bring signatories to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program to the CNMI. The carriers must also ensure that the travelers meet the eligibility requirements for the CNMI-

only parole.

"Effective October 03, 2019, as published in the Federal Register Notice (FRN) 2019-18841, nationals from the Russian Federation will no longer be eligible under the discretionary parole policy in order to travel visa free to Guam or the CNMI. Russian Federation nationals will be required to have the appropriate visa to travel to Guam or the CNMI," the CBP announcement noted.

Russian nationals who had already been paroled into Guam or the CNMI will maintain parole until the expiration of that parole period.

Federal Register Notice 2019-18841 noted that the parole authority for Russian nationals had been "exercised far too expansively than originally intended." It noted that the parole authority accounted for about 99% of all Russian visitors in 2012 and 85% of all Russian visitors in 2017. In the CNMI, the parole authority accounted for about 90% of all Russian visitors in 2010 and 82% of all Russian visitors in 2017.

It further noted overstay-

ing increases in Guam of over four times.

"Since the 2012 expansion of the discretionary parole authority for Russian nationals seeking entry into Guam, overstays increased from 26 in [fiscal year] 2012 to 147 in [fiscal year] 2017, or by 46%. While this represents a relatively small percentage of overall Russian visitors in the CNMI and Guam, the increase in overstays is in and of itself a security concern for DHS," it noted.

DHS further noted that the discretionary parole authority functioned more as a "substitute for the visa process" for Russian nationals.

Under the discretionary parole authority, Russian nationals may enter Guam and the CNMI—including travel between the two territories—for a period of up to 45 days if they are in compliance with some requirements such as an unexpired, machine-readable passport; a valid form I-94; among other requirements.

For additional information on CBP Entry Requirements, please contact the Port of entry at 670-288-0028.

IPI

From Page 1

juries and damage to her car when an IPI bus crashed into her vehicle on July 8, 2017.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was waiting for comments from IPI.

In Saipan Dream's and JSJ's lawsuits, Nutting asked the court to order IPI to pay the unpaid rentals with late charges assessed, attorney's fees, and costs.

Nutting moved the court to find IPI to be in unlawful occupation and possession of the Navy Hill property and remove the company from the property pursuant to the Hold-over Tenancy Act.

In Saipan Dream's case, Nutting alleged in the complaint that on July 1, 2016, Saipan Dream and IPI entered into a residential lease agreement for a term of five years to

15 units of an apartment building in Navy Hill.

Nutting said that on April 1, 2017, the parties entered into an addendum of the lease agreement which leased an additional four units of the Top Palace Apartments to IPI at a rental amount of \$850 a month or \$3,400 monthly.

The lawyer said with the additional four units from the previous 14 units leased, the total monthly rental payments due IPI beginning April 1, 2017 was \$17,000.

Nutting said IPI has not paid rent from November 2018 to May 2019 in the total amount of \$119,000 plus \$11,900 in late charges.

Nutting said that on April 3, 2019, IPI gave notice to Saipan Dream that it is terminating the residential lease agreement effective April 30, 2019.

The lawyer said because of IPI's early termination of the lease agreement, Saipan

Dream is entitled to the payment of all rentals due from the time of IPI's notice of termination up to the end of the lease on July 1, 2021.

In JSJ's lawsuit, Nutting said that on Feb. 26, 2017, JSJ and IPI entered into a residential lease agreement for three years to 13 units of an apartment building owned by JSJ and located in Navy Hill.

Nutting said IPI has not paid rent from November 2018 to May 2019 in the total amount of \$148,400 plus late charges of \$14,840.

Nutting said on April 3, 2019, IPI gave notice to JSJ that it is terminating the lease agreement effective May 9, 2019 and for the return of the security deposit.

The lawyer said defendant's refusal to pay rent or vacate the property has caused JSJ damage.

In Hiras's lawsuit, the plaintiff asked the court to hold IPI

and its employee Rusong Xai liable to pay her damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

Bellas stated in the complaint that on July 8, 2017, one of IPI's Mercedes buses was driven by Xai in Garapan area.

Bellas said at noon, both vehicles driven by Xai and Hirase turned left from Beach Road and were heading west on Corporal Derrence Jack Road in Garapan.

Bellas said Hirase slowed down, but Xai did not, causing the bus to hit Hirase's car.

The lawyer said Xai admitted to police that his cell phone rang that he did not notice the car.

Bellas said Hirase suffered injuries to the neck and shoulder due to the impact.

Bellas said Hirase has been attending physical therapy sessions which have not relieved her continuing pain.

Bellas said IPI is liable for the actions of its employee.

vid's family and a resident of the CNMI, as the new administrator of David estate.

Gacayan's original petition asked the court to allow him to inherit David's money in the bank.

Last June, Associate Judge Joseph A. Camacho expressed concern since an employer is not an heir of the decedent when there is no will that expressly states that such employer will get an inheritance upon a person's death.

Chapters 2 and 7 taxes for PSS totaling \$2.15 million. With these deductions, PSS was left with roughly \$1.7 million owed by the central government.

PSS was supposed to receive \$42 million in FY19. However, due to austerity measures, their budget was slashed several times until it was less than the 25% mandate, with the government prioritizing recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu, after both Saipan and Tinian were devastated in late October 2018.

appointment of Gacayan as administrator.

San Nicolas said prior to David's death, decedent suffered a major stroke and was admitted and remained at CHC for approximately two months under 24-hour care.

The Philippine-based six siblings of David are opposing the request of Gacayan to remain as administrator.

Hodson requested the court to substitute Christopher G. Imbo, a family friend of Da-

Department of Finance and that they will begin spending once the funds are remitted to PSS next week.

"We are going to continue to advocate for our students and our staff, who make providing the education services possible," Muña said.

In a previous *Saipan Tribune* report, Finance Secretary David Atalig explained that the central government owes PSS \$7.78 million, in which the central government would pay the Group Health and Life Insurance premiums of PSS amounting \$2.9 million, and

actually paid anyone to perform "bedside watch," these are not services for which David obligated himself to pay and are certainly not expenses that his estate should be obligated to cover.

Gacayan, through counsel Joey Patrick San Nicolas, asked Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to permit Gacayan's current amended petition for letters of administration to move forward and grant the continuing

sensation to the House of Representatives, they were asked of what is the sufficient minimum in order for PSS to operate safely, and Muña recommended that the bare minimum would be about \$42 million.

Muña and his team are currently working on a spending plan for PSS and that they have received numerous concerns regarding the date when PSS can start using its funds with the start of the new fiscal year. He said that they cannot start spending as PSS has not received any funding for FY20 from the

ACCOUNT

From Page 2

Hodson said in support of such claim Gacayan attaches multiple timesheets that all appear to be in the same handwriting.

Hodson said in the space for "name of the employee" at the top of each sheet, the space is left blank.

Hodson said aside from the lack of proof that Gacayan ac-

saw the suspect enter a white Toyota Highlander bearing the license plate ABZ-116. The witness followed the vehicle, but lost sight of the vehicle.

As officers made their way into Chinatown, they were held down by a parked vehicle by the Korean church in Chinatown. The individual told police that they lost sight of the white Highlander and officers notified patrol units to be on the lookout for the said vehicle as he asked the caller to meet with officers at the scene.

In the statement, DPS reminds the public to remain diligent while purchasing electronics from an unknown vehicle. Through its Facebook page, PC Bargain is requesting for the public's help and cooperation to not buy items that are to be sold by suspicious individuals and inform the company regarding such offers.

If you have any information about the incident or have seen the vehicle, call 911, the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at (670)234-7272, or contact PC Bargain at (670)233-3777 or (670)789-8261.

Torres originally filed the suit in the Superior Court. The defendants then moved to transfer the lawsuit to the District Court.

In April 2017, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Torres's motion to remand the case to the Superior Court as to his remaining claims.

Manglona granted defendants' motion to compel arbitration as to Torres's first cause of action, fraudulent misrepresentation.

PSS

From Page 1

overall FY 2020 PSS budget to roughly about \$53 million, which will be used to support operations to do repairs to damage schools and support the certification of PSS staff, and a second proposal requesting for about \$73 million to complete all the repairs needed to all the damaged schools from Super Typhoon Yutu and remove PSS from its current financial burdens.

He said that in the PSS pre-

JUDGE

From Page 3

Named as defendants in Torres' lawsuit are E-Land World Ltd., Suwaso Corp., MRI, and Dennis Seo.

In 2012, Marianas Resort Inc. and Yusuke Fumoto agreed to sell his 85% ownership interest in Suwaso to MRI. Torres remains a minority shareholder of Suwaso stock, holding a 15% ownership interest.

Torres: Medicaid reimbursements should go to NMI Medicaid

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recommended that funds allocated toward Medicaid reimbursement for fiscal year 2020 go back to the NMI Medicaid Office.

The Senate amendment to what is now known as Public Law 21-8, provided that the over \$5.3 million in federal Medicaid reimbursement funds for fiscal year 2020—if U.S. House Resolution 2328 becomes federal law—should be redirected toward the variable Medical Referral expenses and the operations of the Medicaid Office instead of the Public School System.

“The redirection of these funds raises a concern when a mandated allocation to a

specific entity is met yet ignores critical services toward medical care. As such, I recommend that this funding be used for the operations of the Medicaid Office. Moreover, I recommend that any unused funds be appropriated for expenses related to Medical Referral,” the governor noted in highlights for P.L. 21-8, or the fiscal year 2020 budget.

In order to avail of Medicaid funding, the CNMI has to pay a local matching of 45%.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan’s (Ind-MP) H.R. 2328 seeks to secure \$360 million for NMI Medicaid over the next six years. The federal legislation got the go-signal to leave the committee level recently.

Torres, in a letter addressed to U.S. Sens. Chuck

Grassley (R-IA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), chairman and ranking member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, respectively, requested for support on the legislation. H.R. 2328 is currently under review at the U.S. Senate committee level.

H.R. 4378, a continuing resolution of the budget for government agencies based on the fiscal year 2019 budget to keep the federal government functioning, was entertained at the U.S. House last week. This legislation also includes a continuation of CNMI Medicaid reimbursements as well.

According to Sablan, there are clauses embedded in the continuing resolution that sustains the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages, or FMAP, for the NMI from

June 2019’s HR 2157, or the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019.

Effectively, the continuing resolution would extend for eight weeks the 100% FMAP for the NMI until November

2019—this means that the CNMI would not have to pay any local matching to avail Medicaid funding if enacted.

Couple sues Himawari as husband allegedly injured tripping over box

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A couple filed last Friday a lawsuit against the owner of Himawari in Garapan after the husband was allegedly injured when he tripped over a sealed box that was placed on the ground in the store’s narrow aisle last July 4.

Jose B. Agulto and Francine M. Agulto, through counsel Tiberius Mocanu, are suing Himawari Saipan Inc. for negligence and loss of consortium.

The couple is asking the Superior Court to hold Himawari liable to pay them damages in an amount to be proven at trial. The couple is demanding a jury trial.

Saipan Tribune contacted last Monday Himawari to get their side, but management refused to comment as they will respond to the complaint in court.

According to Mocanu, Mr. Agulto fell on his left side twisting his knee and landed

on his left hip.

Mocanu said Mr. Agulto was unable to walk on his own after his fall and instead relied on a shopping cart for balance.

Upon returning home Mr. Agulto allegedly discovered a severe bruise on his left hip that caused him considerable pain.

Since his fall, the lawyer said, Mr. Agulto relies on a cane to walk and has chronic pain in his left knee and hip.

Mocanu said the Agultos entered Himawari’s store last July 4 at 9:45am.

Mrs. Agulto was behind her husband as they entered the store. Mr. Agulto proceeded down the aisle immediately in front of the entrance.

Mocanu said the aisle that Mr. Agulto entered was not blocked or roped off and there was no indication that the aisle in question was not safe.

Mr. Agulto proceeded down the aisle and allegedly tripped over a box that was left in the aisle.

Mocanu said the box was

placed there by an employee in order to restock the shelves.

He said the aisles at Himawari are narrower than a typical grocery store.

Agulto tripped on the box that was left in the aisle and landed on his left side. He was helped to his feet but was unable to stand and balance on his own strength.

Mr. Agulto needed to use a shopping cart for balance to act as a walker to navigate around the store because of the difficulty he had walking.

Upon arriving home, Mr. Agulto allegedly noticed a large bruise on his left hip. Mrs. Agulto decided to bring him to the hospital’s emergency room.

Mocanu said since his fall, and to date, Mr. Agulto needs a cane in order to walk beyond a very short distance.

Mocanu said Himawari breached its duty to Mr. Agulto by not alerting him to known hazard and/or by not removing hazards from its premises.

Task force aims to reduce NCD burdens in CNMI

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. Division of Public Health Services Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services conducted a meeting to combat the burdens of NCDs, such as cancer and diabetes, in the CNMI. This meeting was conducted last Aug. 15 and 16 in order to finalize the strategic plan developed by the NCD State Task Force addressing the issue of NCDs.

The NCD State Task Force consists of seven councils: The Behavioral Health, Community and Clinical Linkage, Cancer Prevention and Control, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Tobacco Prevention and Control, and the Policy council. Each respective council focuses on certain aspects of an NCD and each work together to combat the spread of NCDs in the CNMI.

During the meeting, each of the NCD Task Force councils shared ideas and concerns relating to their focuses and observations in the past few years. This discussion will be used to inform the councils’ efforts moving forward, including:

Developing and strengthening policies to address NCDs, including implementing a Worksite Wellness Policy, increasing the legal age for using tobacco products from 18 to 21 years of age, and enforcement of Public Law 16-46 or the Smoke-Free Air Act.

Increasing “whole society” partnerships with government and private institutions in the CNMI, as well as community leaders and youth, to

promote health.

Create Health Toolkits that provide information and ways for patients to track their preventive care, as well as educational kits that community members can use to provide basic NCD prevention information to family and friends.

Addressing substance abuse and recovery in the community.

The NCDB aims to solidify the Task Force’s strategic plan over November and share the information with CNMI political leaders for support and implementation across the board. Despite the ongoing austerity measures, the NCD Task Force councils are determined to continue to work together collaboratively

to reduce the burden of NCDs in the CNMI.

According to CHCC’s 2016 report on NCDs and risk factors, over 50% of adults in the CNMI suffer from hypertension, or high blood pressures, which can lead to other major health issues, including strokes. Over 60% of CNMI adults are considered either overweight or obese, and over 10% have diabetes.

The NCD Task Force councils are open to all interested members of the CNMI community, including youth and young adults. Interested participants can contact NCDB Administrator Amber Mendiola at (670) 236-8728 or connect with them on Facebook @cnmiPublicHealth.



Midea ELECTRIC Fall Sale

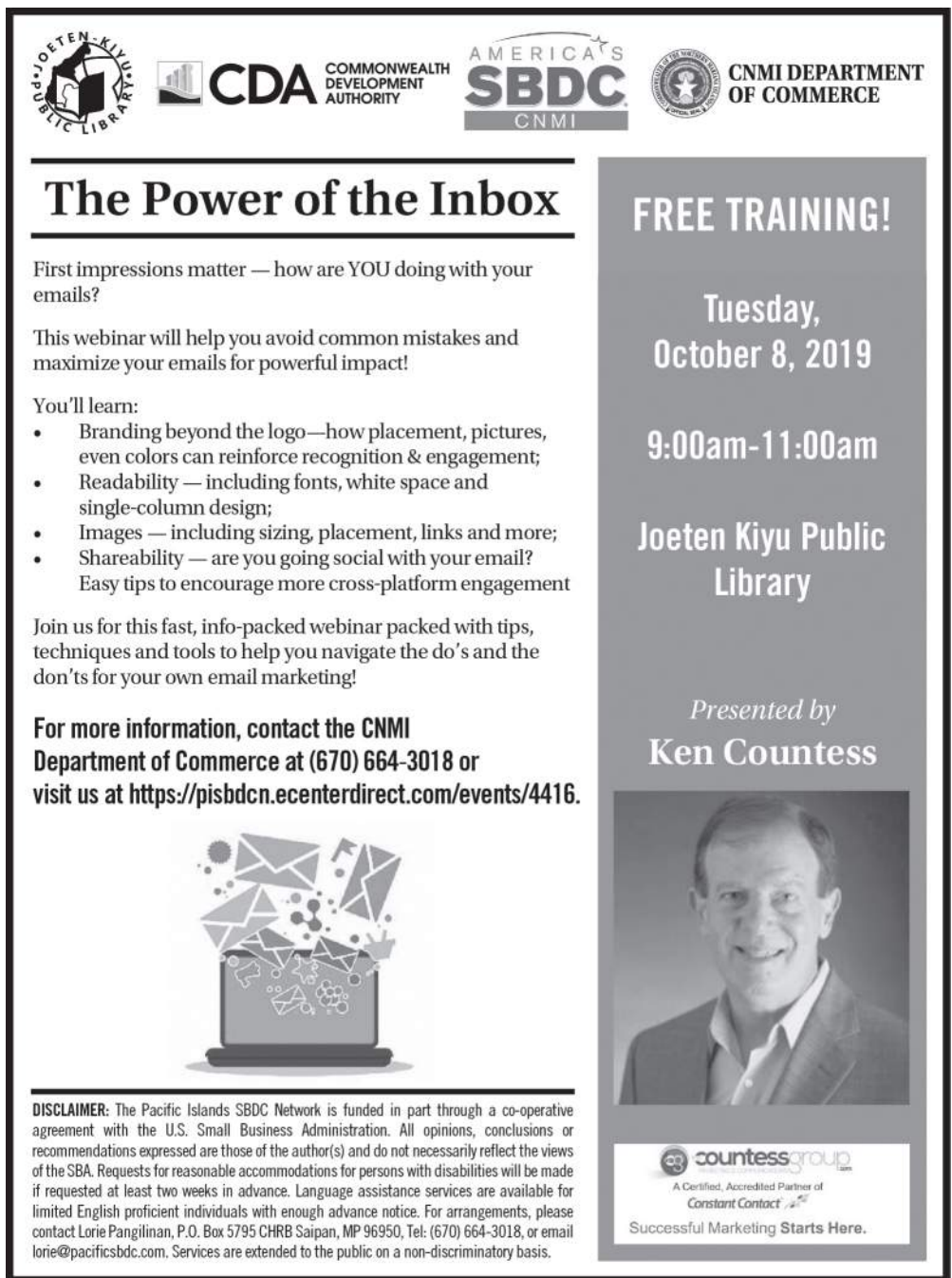
SPECIAL OFFER:
Buy 2 aircon
get 1 FREE speaker

AUX BRAND 9,000 BTU	ORG \$599 HOT SALE \$499
AUX BRAND 9,000 BTU 17 SEER DC INVERTER	ORG \$680 HOT SALE \$599
MIDEA BRAND 9.9 CU FT REFRIGERATOR	ORG \$650 HOT SALE \$585
MIDEA BRAND DRYER	ORG \$799 HOT SALE \$639
RECHARGEABLE SPEAKER W/ MICROPHONE (MINI SIZE - PARTY SIZE)	10% OFF

HAO'S AIR CONDITIONING

Phone: 234-0680 / 285-0680 Fax: 234-0688
For more info, check us at the store.
INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

Located at CK across the U.S. Post Office



The Power of the Inbox

First impressions matter — how are YOU doing with your emails?

This webinar will help you avoid common mistakes and maximize your emails for powerful impact!

You'll learn:

- Branding beyond the logo—how placement, pictures, even colors can reinforce recognition & engagement;
- Readability — including fonts, white space and single-column design;
- Images — including sizing, placement, links and more;
- Shareability — are you going social with your email?

Easy tips to encourage more cross-platform engagement

Join us for this fast, info-packed webinar packed with tips, techniques and tools to help you navigate the do's and the don'ts for your own email marketing!

For more information, contact the CNMI Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3018 or visit us at <https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4416>.

FREE TRAINING!

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

9:00am-11:00am

Joeten Kiyu Public Library

Presented by
Ken Countess

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHR Saipan, MP 96950. Tel: (670) 664-3018, or email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

countessgroup
A Certified, Accredited Partner of
Constant Contact
Successful Marketing Starts Here.

Clarification on \$2M share of Casino License Renewal fee sought

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota Legislative Delegation through a letter notified the Department of Finance that they want clarity and a breakdown of their \$2 million share in the annual Casino License Renewal fee as provided by local mandate.

According to Public Law 20-10, the delegation is supposed to receive annually \$2 million of the \$15-million annual Casino License Renewal Fee. However, delegation chair Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) noted that the delegation did not receive the \$1.43 million—the final amount after reducing a previous obligation.

Manglona in his letter

noted that according to former finance secretary Larissa Larson's report on the delegation's finances submitted to Legislative Bureau fiscal analyst Dave Demapan, the delegation had \$1.43 million available for appropriation.

"On March 2, 2019, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios vetoed Rota Local Bill 21-07, D@ because of lack of funding. However, \$1.43 million of the \$2 million allocated to Rota in fiscal year 2019 was never appropriated and should be available for appropriation," he wrote on the letter, addressing current Finance Secretary David Atalig.

HLB 21-07 allocates \$380,000 of the \$1.43 million to hemodialysis patients, inter-island medical referral

stipends and room accommodation expenses, medical subsistence allowance, and a contribution to the Flame Tree Festival for 2019.

"Additionally, prior to the delegation session wherein HLB 21-07 was passed, Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), legal counsel Joe Bermudes, David Demapan, and I met with [Department of Finance's Ryan Camacho] to discuss the \$1.43 million available funding for appropriation," Manglona noted.

"It is quite puzzling to have HLB 21-07 vetoed as your department's accounting records, [Camacho's analysis], and even your own March 18, 2019 letter to the House Ways and Means Committee...state that there are funds in the

amount of \$1.43 million available for Rota local appropriation," he continued.

Saipan Tribune reached out to Atalig. He noted that he would be issuing a letter responding to Manglona within the week.

According to Manglona, instead of only appropriation \$380,000, the delegation

recognized that the amount is closer to \$700,000, only seven months later.

"This figure is only going to increase in the upcoming weeks and months," Manglona wrote. "...To add fuel to the fire, many patients are asked to delay much needed medical treatment because of the limited availability of rooms at

the Rota Guest House and the lack of funding to house these patients at a hotel," he continued, adding that Rota patients are currently not receiving stipends on Saipan while seeking medical treatment for more than seven months since. The patients also do not receive any reimbursements relating to their return to Rota.

IN ONGOING LEGAL DISPUTE OVER OWNERSHIP OF HOTEL RIVIERA

Judge declines to recognize Korean court's criminal conviction of businessman

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has declined to recognize the Korean court's criminal judgment that convicted and sentenced to six months in prison a businessman who instituted a lawsuit in 2015 asking the court on Saipan to declare him the sole and true owner of a company that owns the 135-room Hotel Riviera in Finasisu.

In an order issued last Friday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho also denied defendant Globuil Holdings' motion for summary judgment that seeks dismissal of the lawsuit filed on Saipan by businessman Do Sik Kim against Globuil and Globuil owner Kyung Duk Park.

Camacho ruled that recognizing the Korean court's criminal judgment would violate the penal law rule as defined by Restatement (Fourth) of the Foreign Relations Law of the U.S.

Camacho found that the subsequent criminal conviction of plaintiff Kim by a Korean appellate court even after an acquittal by a Korean trial court does not comport with the Commonwealth's heightened protection against double jeopardy and is not compatible with "fundamental principles of fairness" and U.S. public policy.

According to court records, in 2015, Kim, through his then-counsel Michael W. Dotts, instituted a lawsuit against Park and the Korea-based Globuil Holdings.

Kim asked the court to declare him as the sole and true owner of all shares of Changshin Resort Saipan Corp., which allegedly owns Hotel Riviera.

Kim alleged that Park only paid him 50 million Korean Won out of 2.5 billion Korean Won pursuant to their stock purchase agreement executed in 2013.

Kim alleged that despite failure to pay the total amount, Park subsequently sold shares

of Hotel Riviera to Globuil Holdings in April 2015.

In December 2016, Kim filed his first amended complaint against defendants Park and Globuil Holdings. Kim alleged that he was the 100% owner of the shares of Hotel Riviera since 2009.

Kim alleged that on Feb. 5, 2013, Kim made an agreement to sell his shares to Park for consideration in the amount of 2.5 billion Korean Won.

According to Kim, Park did not pay the balance of the agreed consideration, and the shares therefore never transferred to Park.

Kim said Park later sold the shares to Globuil Holdings.

Kim had earlier attempted to deal with his dissatisfaction with Park through the criminal justice system in South Korea.

Kim tried to bring a criminal case against Park in Korea by alleging that Kim and Park had made a deal that called for Park to pay consideration in the amount of 4.5 billion Korean won.

Kim alleged in his complaint filed in the Superior Court that the amount is only 2.5 billion Korean Won.

However, instead of proceeding with a criminal case against Park, the Korean authorities brought a criminal case against Kim for having made a false report against Park.

The Korean trial court found Kim not guilty of the charges brought against him. However, after the proceedings at the trial level, the prosecutor appealed the not guilty verdict to the Korean appellate court.

The Korean appellate court then, using only the documentary record, overturned the trial court's not guilty verdict based on a de novo findings of fact and convicted Kim without a new trial.

De novo means a "new trial" by a different tribunal.

The Korean judicial system sentenced Kim to six months in prison for filing the false report against Park.

Kim served his sentence

and the judgment is final.

In May 2018, Globuil Holdings, through counsel Mark Scoggins, filed a motion for summary judgment seeking dismissal of Kim's lawsuit.

Scoggins argued that the issues raised by Kim in this action have already been litigated in a criminal matter in the Republic of Korea, and, therefore, the issues involved in this case are barred.

In his opposition, Kim, through new counsel Samuel Mok, argued that the penal law rule, which is the common law rule that foreign criminal judgments are not enforceable in courts in the U.S., prohibits the CNMI Superior Court from using the Korean criminal judgment for preclusive purposes.

Mok also argued that the Korean criminal judgment was contrary to U.S. public policy because the Korean justice system violated Kim's constitutional rights against double jeopardy.

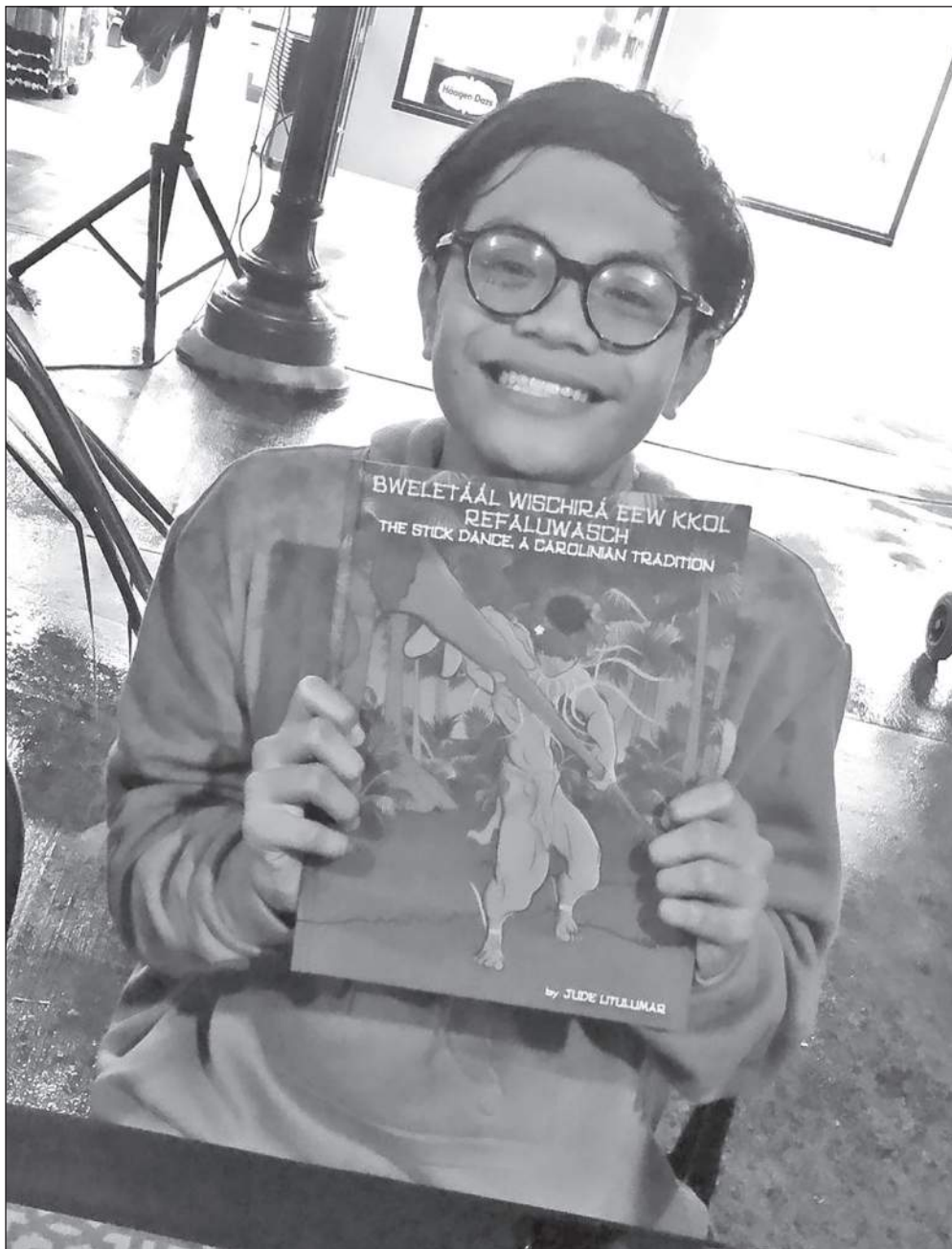
The Superior Court heard the motion on Sept. 25, 2018.

In his ruling issued Friday, Camacho said Globuil Holdings' interpretation of the penal law rule does not comport with Restatement (Fourth) of the Foreign Relations Law of the U.S. Section 489's definition of the rule—which prohibits courts in the U.S. from recognizing and enforcing foreign penal judgments.

Camacho said because the Commonwealth courts must treat the restatement of the law as the rules of decision, the CNMI Superior Court must adhere to Section 489's interpretation of the penal law rule.

"Therefore, the Commonwealth Superior Court cannot recognize the Korean criminal judgment," Camacho said.

The judge also ruled that the Superior Court finds that the judicial proceedings that rendered the Korean criminal judgment violate public policy and are not compatible with fundamental principles of fairness because it violated Kim's right against double jeopardy.



YOUNG AUTHOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This is Jude Litulumar, the author of "Bweletaal Wischira Eew Kkol Refaluwasch" which translates to "The Stick Dance, A Carolinian Tradition." This is the first book under the Lady Diann Torres Foundation's Language in Literacy Young Author's Writing Program written in Carolinian. All copies of LDTF publications are \$10 each. The next competition will be happening very soon. Details will be released within the coming weeks.

3 Rota beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged three Rota beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are West Har-

bor Marina, District #2 Drainage, and Talakhaya Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Qual-

ity Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Rota's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Senate revamps Casino License Fee appropriation

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate during their session last week passed unanimously a total revamp of a House legislation appropriating the annual Casino License Renewal Fee of \$15.5 million for fiscal year 2019.

While only \$11.5 million of the \$15.5 million Casino License Renewal Fee remained after the Tinian and Aguiguan

Legislative Delegation and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation already appropriating \$1 million and \$3 million of their shares from the renewal fees on separate local bills, respectively, the Senate during its session last Sept. 26 ultimately passed Rep. Ivan Blanco’s (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-78 in the form of a Senate substitute and one amendment.

Senate changes to the leg-

islation included taking into account the amounts already appropriated by the Tinian and Saipan delegations respectively.

This means that the Rota Delegation has \$2 million from the annual Casino License Renewal fee remaining; \$1 million for the Tinian delegation; \$8 million for the Saipan delegation; and the \$502,570 in adjustments based on the consumer price

index every five years.

The Senate, through Sen. Jude Hofschneider’s (R-Tinian) substitute bill and with amendments from Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), broke up half of the \$2 million appropriation from the fee reserved for the Rota Legislative Delegation.

Under the bill, \$290,000 goes to the partial payment of any Rota delegation obli-

gations to the general fund; \$220,000 for the 126 Rota dialysis and terminally ill patients monthly subsistence allowance for May through October 2019; \$65,000 for the Rota interisland medical referral patients and escort stipends; \$50,000 for the partial payment to Sun Palace Rota patient’s lodging costs; \$15,000 for vehicle maintenance for the Rota Liaison Office on Saipan; \$25,000 for the Rota Health Center; \$40,000 for a new van for the Rota Medical Referral patients on Saipan; and \$85,000 for Rota Mayor’s Office operations.

The remaining total of \$10.5 million, after recognizing Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ Sept. 5, 2019 letter requesting to the Legislature to incorporate the \$15.5 million annual casino renewal fee into the general fund, will be allocated to government agencies.

Another \$1 million is transferred to the NMI Settlement Fund for partial payment of the fiscal year 2017 payments under the Settlement Agreement; \$3 million transferred to the Public School System; \$1 million to the Northern Marianas College; \$500,000 to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.; \$1 million to the Mari-

anas Visitors Authority; and the remaining over \$4.5 million to vendors for payments incurred as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Reporting and certification requirements

Senate changes to the legislation also included mandating the secretary of Finance to submit to the House speaker, Senate president, House Committee on Ways and Means chairman, and Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs chairman a detailed expenditure report on the distribution of the appropriated funds within 30 days of any distribution of funds within the legislation.

Also, in order to satisfy Public Law 20-10, or the local mandate that splits up the \$15 million among the delegations—\$2 million to the Rota and Tinian delegations, respectively, and \$11 million to the Saipan delegation with \$1.5 million going to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program—the Finance secretary, according to the legislation, is required to certify to the Legislature the availability of any additional collections above the projected resources for fiscal year 2020 for designation to the delegations, until the \$10 million owed to the delegations is full satisfied.

Bill introduced to incentivize behavioral health studies

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) introduced Senate Bill 21-40 to establish a Behavioral Health Professional Scholarship in the CNMI during a Senate session last Sept. 26.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration defines behavioral health as “the promotion of mental health, resilience and well-being; the treatment of mental and substance use disorders; and the support of those who experience and/or are in recovery from these conditions.” Students pursuing behavioral health degrees may go on to become psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists, counselors, social workers or substance abuse

professionals—all of which are in demand here in our Commonwealth.

S.B. 21-40 proposes to award scholarships to five students in undergraduate and five students in graduate behavioral health programs each year for a maximum of four years and two years, respectively. The proposed award amounts are \$8,000 per annum for students of the Northern Marianas College and \$15,000 per annum for students attending four-year college or university in the United States or its territories. The bill requires award-ees to maintain a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and return to and work in the CNMI after ob-

taining their behavioral health degrees. The CNMI Scholarship Office would take the lead on administering the program, which will sunset after a five-year period.

“I invite all stakeholders and interested individuals to comment on Senate Bill 21-40,” said Hofschneider, “so we can improve it, if necessary, and ensure it fulfills its original intent of improving behavioral health services in the Marianas.”

“With the recent trends in teen suicide and opioid abuse, it is important that the CNMI takes the initiative to improve our capacity to treat behavioral health issues,” said Hofschneider, who serves as the vice chairman of the Behavioral

Health Oversight Committee under the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education or WICHE.

In a recent WICHE committee meeting, Hofschneider learned that “75% of a person’s behavioral health issues develops during childhood, so early childhood intervention is key to ensuring our youth grow into adults with a healthy mental health. We need more behavioral health professionals to make that happen. With S.B. 21-40, we hope to attract students to the field of behavioral health so that more professionals can help adults and children with behavioral health issues in the CNMI.” (PR)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-19-037

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

The date of contract award will be no later than November 22, 2019. Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-19-037, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the submission, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-040

Waste characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Waste characterization and disposal - CUC Saipan power plant 1 and Rota power plant, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the terms of Stipulated Order No.2 (SO 2).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory **site visit and pre-bid meeting** is scheduled on **October 10, 2019 at 10.00am (ChST)** at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “IFB-19-040: Waste Characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 29, 2019 at 10.00 AM (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 14, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Pranhakara, Utility Coordinator/ ATMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

International Festival of Cultures draws crowd

The Marianas Visitors Authority's 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures drew hundreds of revelers to Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Saipan on Oct. 20-21, 2019.

The festival celebrated the ethnic diversity of The Marianas a Parade of Cultures, live ethnic performances, culinary sales, cultural demonstrations, and sales of art and crafts. Rain showers blew past to make way for the opening of the festival with the Parade of Cultures on Friday night, featuring walking groups showcasing their traditional attire from the Pacific, Asia, and be-

yond along Beach Road.

Returning to this year's celebration were the communities of Japan, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, China, The Marianas, Bangladesh, and the Korean Cultural Center.

"We would like to thank our cultural groups for once again partnering with the MVA on making this annual celebration, possible for our visitors and community to enjoy," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We are pleased we were able to push forward with the festival again this year, es-

pecially during the weekend of charter flights from Japan. It was a great opportunity to showcase the diversity of our

community, and we thank our supporters, and participants. We would like to also thank our sponsors Kinpachi for our

stage and the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority in providing shuttle services to and from American Memorial

Park and the festival venue."

The International Festival of Cultures is organized annually by the MVA in September. (PR)



Members of the Chamorro and Carolinian communities of The Marianas join the Parade of Cultures on Sept. 20, 2019, to kick off the 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority in celebration of the ethnic diversity of the islands. MVA



Members of the CNMI Awaodori dance troupe, representing the Japanese community, gather on Sept. 20, 2019, at the 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures in The Marianas. The festival is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA



Students of the Chinese community prepare to perform on Sept. 20, 2019, at the 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures in The Marianas. MVA



Members of the Carolinian community prepare to perform on Sept. 20, 2019, at the 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures in The Marianas. MVA



Members of the Chamorro community perform on Sept. 21, 2019, at the 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures in The Marianas. The festival is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA



Members of the Federated States of Micronesia community gather on Sept. 21, 2019, at the 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures in The Marianas. MVA

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 2, 2000

FAA OKs \$2.4-M for Saipan airport project

Committed at making CNMI's international air commuter facility at par with its counterparts in the mainland United States and other countries in the world, the Federal Aviation Administration continues to pour in funds for the improvement of the Saipan airport. FAA's most recent re-affirmation of its commitment to improving air transport facilities in the Northern Marianas came in the form of a financial grant offer amounting to \$2.374 million earmarked for the rehabilitation of the Saipan International Airport runway. Under the proposed Grant Agreement, FAA will shoulder 100 percent of the allowable project costs of the first \$2 million and at least 90 percent of all other expenses that may be incurred for the completion of the project.

'Misunderstanding' triggers confusion on weapons bill

The proponent of the bill amending the gun control law to allow so-called "shooting resorts" in the CNMI has blamed "misunderstanding" as the reason for the mounting opposition drawn by the proposal. House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta, however, expressed optimism over favorable action by the Senate on the legislation, welcoming the decision by its leadership to travel to South Korea for research and inputs. The Saipan representative is the sponsor of HB 12-212 which seeks

to amend the Weapons Control Act to permit establishment of resorts that will offer target practice and shooting ranges to tourists. The House of Representatives has approved the measure in a split vote following concerns raised by members on public safety as they noted its potential impact on proliferation of handguns and assault rifles on the islands.

October 2, 2004

Fitial: Delegate bill's passage to save funds for CNMI govt

House Speaker Benigno Fitial said the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources' approval of the CNMI delegate bill is "very good news" and a significant development for the future of the Commonwealth. "I'm happy upon hearing that it passed the committee," he said. If passed by the entire chamber, he said the delegate bill would save the CNMI a lot of public funds allotted for the Washington Representative Office in Washington D.C. and the District Office in the CNMI. "It will get rid of the costs that government pays for the D.C. office and the district office operations. Everything will be paid for by the federal government," he said. In a letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio said that various House members supported the measure, H.R. 5135.

House OKs bill establishing NMI nursing board

The House of Representatives unanimously passed Friday a nursing practice bill that, among others, allows qualified nurses to prescribe and dispense medicines, and calls for the creation of a CNMI Board of Nurse Examiners. This after the House Committee on Health and Welfare, chaired by Rep. Crispin M. Ogo, recommended its passage, citing that the existing law has not been updated since its enactment 22 years ago.

The bill now goes to the Senate for similar passage. The bill primarily aims to regulate the practice of nursing through the establishment of the board.

October 2, 2005

PSS may lay off staff if \$50M budget is not approved

The Public School System may have no choice but to retrain some of its employees if its proposed \$50 million budget for the new fiscal year is not approved, according to a ranking PSS official. Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero made the statement during an interview with the media at the Governor's Office Friday morning. Guerrero, who had a brief meeting with Gov. Juan N. Babauta that day, said the PSS would continue to fight for an increase from its current \$37.2 million budget. He said the worst-case scenario if the budget is not approved, is for PSS to lay off some school staff, which most likely would come from ranks of teacher aides. The House last week approved the PSS' \$50 million request for the new fiscal year. It also appropriated \$4 million for the CNMI Scholarship Office.

House okays \$550K for 2006 Micronesian Games

The House of Representatives passed a bill last week appropriating \$550,000 as partial funding for the CNMI's hosting of next year's Micronesian Games. The House approved House Bill 14-378, which aims to tap \$550,000 from Managaha Landing fees to construct official grandstands at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field and Miguel B. Pangelinan softball field, which are located at the Oleai Sports Complex. The construction of these official grandstands have reportedly been identified as the most urgent priority in relation to the hosting of the games. The bill was authored by Rep. Justo S. Quitugua and approved by all 16 members during a session Thursday.

2019 International Festival of Cultures

PHOTOS By MARC A. VENUS



Members of the Saipan Awaodori team performs traditional Japanese dances during the International Festival of Cultures last Sept. 21.



A pair of spectators observe the Japanese booth's *Kendama* toys during the International Festival of Cultures last Sept. 21.



Among the local talent the Sunrise Cruisers sang a handful of Chamorro and Carolinian music for spectators of the International Festival of Cultures last Sept. 21.



This child is performing traditional Eastern Yoyo dancing as part of the Chinese Association of Saipan's presentation to the International Festival of Cultures last Sept. 21.



Members of The Marianas booth showcase Chamorro carvings during last Sept. 21's International Festival of Cultures.



The Indigenous Affairs Office also provided local foods such as *titiyas* and *charakilis* to spectators during the International Festival of Cultures last Sept. 21.



The Lady Diann Torres Foundation also participated in the International Festival of Cultures as they provided local books to spectators last Sept. 21.



Spectators were amazed by the performance of the Saipan Awaodori team, as numbers of spectators began to rise shortly after the International Festival of Cultures' start last Sept. 21.



Spectators got the chance to observe the Chinese tradition of stick dancing during the International Festival of Cultures last Saturday.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 195

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Republicans aren't coming to the rescue, America

On Sunday evening, the president of the United States told the world that he thought a member of Congress should be tried for treason. "I want Schiff questioned at the highest level," Donald Trump tweeted of Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), who is leading an impeachment inquiry into Trump. It was a dangerous boundary shattered by a desperate president. Republicans were silent.

Less than three hours later, Trump unleashed another gust of tweets quoting a longtime supporter who warned what might happen if the president was impeached for asking a foreign government for dirt on a U.S. political opponent. "It will cause a Civil War like fracture in this Nation from which our Country will never heal," evangelical pastor Robert Jeffress was quoted as saying in Trump's tweet. It was a gleeful stoking of the president's inflammatory rhetoric. This time, just one member of his party managed to find some words of disgust.

Republicans aren't coming to the rescue, America. Not those who represent North Carolina. Not those who could exercise their constitutional obligation to check the behavior of the executive branch. That time has come, again and again, with this president. Each time, with fewer and fewer exceptions, Republicans have meekly let the moment pass.

That abdication never has been more clear than in the days since news broke of Trump's Ukraine call and a subsequent whistleblower's complaint, much of which has been confirmed as accurate by the White House itself. The disturbing revelations were met with plaintive "last chance" calls for Republicans to question what happened, to express a minimum of concern about Trump's extraordinary transgression and White House attempts to hide it. This editorial board joined that chorus, as we have before with North Carolina's leaders.

Richard Burr, North Carolina's senior senator and chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has at least responded to Trump by taking the first careful steps of interviewing witnesses regarding the whistleblower's complaint. Thom Tillis, however, has taken a decidedly different path. In a statement last week, he scolded "another pathetic attempt by Democrats to destroy President Trump with falsehoods." Other N.C. Republicans, including Mark Meadows and Patrick McHenry, followed suit.

The GOP response is, certainly, a testament to the sway that Donald Trump has over his party. But it's also a reminder of a reality not confined to this administration or Congress — that elected officials, like so many of us, tend to look after themselves first. Republicans know if they were to do the right thing and condemn Donald Trump en masse, voters might not only turn on the president but could punish his party in elections to come. So like politicians have done forever, Republicans have denied or minimized Trump's abhorrent behavior.

That doesn't mean America is powerless. Democrats are right to take the step of an impeachment inquiry, regardless of its political risk or whether Trump ultimately gets to speed through their stop sign. The president may have broken the law. His White House may have attempted to cover up corrupt behavior. Congress has a responsibility to investigate.

But this week has become about more than a call to the

See **REPUBLICANS** on Next Page



History will be cruel to many who saw Trump treachery and didn't become whistleblowers

There's been a lot of failure in American politics these last four years, but has there been any more miserable and embarrassing than the alleged and, we now know, probably mythical "Resistance Inside the Trump Administration"?

Do you remember that? On Sept. 5, 2018 — barely a year ago, although it feels now like six or seven — a ranking member of the Trump administration published a remarkable, anonymous op-ed in the New York Times in which the author meant to assure the rest of America that — despite the downward-spiraling lunacy that we witness every day on our TV screen or in our Twitter feed — we should fear not because "many of the senior officials in his own administration are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations."

Some 389 endless days later, we still don't know who the writer is, but there's one thing we can say with utter confidence. He or she is a coward. So, too, are literally dozens of other so-called public servants — many obscure, but some with the nation's highest medals of valor pinned near their feckless, quivering hearts — who went to work each morning and watched an American president shred the Constitution and betray our fundamental values and yet chose to say nothing.

It took the great courage of one person — and two-thirds of an out-of-control president's disastrous term in office — to show us how deeply the stench of fear otherwise permeated 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. That one whistleblower — maybe a CIA agent, but definitely an individual who did not check his or her moral compass at the White House front gate — has revealed Trump's abuse of power, potential lawbreaking and casual willingness to solicit, and arguably extort, foreign election interference in his dealings with Ukraine. These revelations have brought Trump to the brink of impeachment and could topple the tottering Jenga of corruption that has been his administration.

It never should have gotten this far.

Literally from day one of Trump's presidency, the millions of Americans worried about a president who seemed not just totally unprepared but often unmoored from reality were told that "the adults in the room" — a platoon of "the generals" as-seen-on-Trump's-TV and some veteran political hands (Reince Priebus? ... anyone still remember that guy?)

By **WILL BUNCH**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Will Bunch is the national opinion columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



— were there to make sure the 45th president didn't wake up one morning and order a nuclear attack on Barbados or some such thing.

Indeed, these bastions of a serious and supposedly incorruptible permanent political establishment made sure they leaked to the permanent media establishment in D.C. that their steady hands were on the actual tiller even as Trump wildly spun his reportedly fake steering wheel on Twitter. Three of them — the ex-general Defense Secretary James Mattis, oilman Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Wall-Streeter-turned-Treasury-Secretary Stephen Mnuchin — even put it out there (on background, of course) that their work in protecting America from their boss was so vital they had a sort-of-secret "suicide pact" to all quit if one of them was forced out.

The fact that Mnuchin — perhaps still intoxicated from inhaling those rolls of freshly printed money — is still on the job long after Mattis and John Kelly are gone — and in fact covering up on the president's income taxes — is one of your "tells" that the entire notion of adults in the room with Trump was a fairy tale comprised of unadulterated baloney. They said absolutely nothing for 32 months while the president of the United States played footsie with the world's worst dictators — especially the one who gleefully interfered in the last presidential election — and with America's white supremacists, and took active, improper, and possibly illegal actions to cover up his tracks. The adults acted like chickens.

What are we to make of Trump's second national security adviser (after the first dude got busted on a felony rap), Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, who actually once authored a book entitled "Dereliction of Duty" to argue that America's top generals "should not have tolerated" blatant lying by then-

See **HISTORY** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Foggun Guafe

Deste tatalu' pueñge poduñg sinparat na uchan. Hu ap-prubecha finattoña 'nai ha fuegu i atuf sin sanhiyuñg ni muna' hasso-yu' ni hagas kusinan mame antes gi Lali Fo'.

Tai malefaghu ni feggung guafe ni diariu inna' sesetbe man-na' lagu. Kada tres dias man-ñgayu' ham. Achog u' uchan debi bai' n rikohiye hayu 'sino man-ñgaha' ham gi oran sentada.

Gai minaput muna-appan hinegsa' gi feggung hayu. Lau dispu-de de praktiku' hau, paire. Kase dos satten hunu' dogñigus estake hu danche mana apaña gi feggung guafe.

Ayu na foggun 'nai umeyag-yu' muna' lagu todú klasen pu-tahe. Enfin, ha kreansa ham si nanan mame man-na' lagu yan todú che'chu guma'. Mit gracias!

■ ■ ■

Isla: Gi 1974 mattuyu' dos isla giya Marshalls mas ke 400 miyas ginen sentrun gobietnu (Majuro).

'Nos kuantus familia mañasaga guihe. Ayu 'nai madepende siha i los probes i guinahan i tanu' yan tasi.

I gima' niha puru higai. Man-sattun gi ina' ayudan nesessidat komunida. Ayu 'nai anog kustumbren tautau isla. Mauleg hinanau niha diariamente gi dikiki' na tanu' niha.

Guine lokue' na isla 'nai hu chage tamales ginen asien-tun niyog. Ti fahonñge lau hu komprende haf' i tautau siña ha chogue pot satbasioña. Mañge' na tamales yan tininun guihan. Gi la pupueñge mandaña' man-estoria yan mañganta esta i oran deskansa.

Hu hutu' guafaghu gi kantun tasi. Tula noche umega'yu' pu-tion siha gi lañget. Gi chagchag oga'an ha pañgunyu' i paupau na linaloglug kafe. Man-amotsa dispues mapetsige che'chu' niha. Man-dichosu pot abundansia mantension niha diariu ginen i tanu' yan tasi.

■ ■ ■

Tiau: I maribahan ekonomia humala papa' fondu gi kahan iya Marianas. Fuetsau, mapatten tiau para u fan pinalala'e todú mas man-impottante na depattamentun yan ahensian gobietnu. I kinalamten fondu kulan siso' amaka, kada un'li'e, ti un' li'e. Dios mihu!

HISTORY

From Page 10

President Lyndon Johnson during the Vietnam War? Yet in May 2017, McMaster sat in a room while Trump assured two top Russian diplomats he was untroubled by the evidence of their election interference (and also blabbed a major spy secret) and afterward tweeted their conversation was “wholly appropriate.”

And what of John Kelly, the Marine general who both led Homeland Security and served as chief of staff? Kelly was the father of all “adults in the room,” whose arrival in the West Wing was greeted with rose petals and hailed as the “end of the chaos” by the D.C. intelligentsia — only to have Kelly bury his head and look the other way from Charlottesville to Helsinki, while he aided his boss in embarrassingly trashing a black woman critic and in quarterbacking the rise of American gulags? (And this was before we knew — thanks to the whistleblower — that it was during Kelly's reign that extraordinary steps were taken to shield Trump's conversations, including a call right after the murder of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi with Saudi leader Mohammed bin Salman, whom our own CIA has fingered as the mastermind.)

Despite his reputation as a “warrior monk” immersed in “The Art of War” teachings of the Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu, former Gen. James “Mad Dog” Mattis proved to be more of a scared kitten as defense secretary as he watched Trump's erratic and often dangerous foreign policies unfold from his perch at the Pentagon. Mattis ultimately did resign amid policy differences over the Middle East and other hot spots, but even in writing a recent book, he's made it clear he won't tell the public what he knows about Trump — that his silence is “maybe not going to be forever,” but that it is going to be now, when the world vitally needs to know what Mattis

■ ■ ■

Klima: Dispues de todú animu ma-estudiaye tinilaikan klima uttimoña ma-abandona i asunto gi ma'pus na semana. Era, kada manalag hiyuñg gi tasi gagaige ha' na ha falalague i inai. Taya' tinilaika.

I fumafama este na asunto ni un' estadiu guaha para umakatsu finu' niha. Haf' 'ste na espantun papulasion i tanu na siempre mas bula ke presisu, lau mas menus.

Unu ha' na tinilaika hu hassu ni gaige gi Santa Biblia: 'nai hana' uchan i Saina 40 dias ya tat ti linimus. Hombre este hana' para pot destrosiu mampus gi tautau siha. Kontodu guihan tuni-nus matmus!

■ ■ ■

Sin Guma': Kanaha' miyon na tautau mantai gima' giya California. Maseha manu na kantun chalan mahutu' guafag niha mandeskansa.

Problema para i los probes pot hasan fasilidat bañu yan komun. Este na problema muna' sumen mutuñg estadun California.

I mantai fanliheñg finañagun 'nos kuantus problema tat kumu man-malañgu kabesan niha, usun amot binenu, yan mantai che'chu'. Didog na asunto guihe na estadu.

■ ■ ■

Otru Asuntu: Matutuhun diniskuten estau politika giya Guahan gi halum mañeluta Chamoru. Homlu' na pinetsige gi inebaluan haf' propiu na sisteman gobietnamentu para siha.

Direchun mañeluta pot ti man-mana'e apptotunidat dumisidi futtunan niha politika. Huñgan bendidu Guahan deste 1898. Lau madispone sin konsentimientun natibu.

Guaha lokue' mumente dinaña' Guahan yan Marianas. Gai ginatdun na asunto pot esta Marianas kabales ha establesegue' deste 1978. Gi halum este lamegai na asunto 'nai siempre ti umafagcha' dinisehan tautau ginen i dos lugat.

Gi uttimun siñkuenta siha na sakan klaru iya Guahan ha ñega ginagau dinana'. Chagu' na asunto pa'gu ni maliñgu gi taduñg tasi gi lichen iya Guahan (Marianas Trench).

■ ■ ■

Tinilaika: Hu upus un' amiguho gi tenda pot mampus tinilai-

knows. Talk about dereliction of duty!

Despite appearances, morality is not dead in American governance. We've seen a fair amount of it these last two-and-two-thirds years, but most of it from midlevel players, several layers removed from Trump's blinding aura of corruption. Let's take a moment to praise and remember names like Rod Schoonover, who quit as a State Department intelligence officer when Team Trump blocked him from testifying on climate change, or Chuck Park, who resigned as a foreign service officer because he could no longer explain the “blatant contradictions” of the Trump era after El Paso, or John Feeley, who left in protest as U.S. ambassador to Panama after Trump's remark about “----hole countries.”

But for every Schoonover or Park or Feeley, there's a Gary Cohn, who weighed quitting as Trump's chief economic adviser after Charlottesville when the president's seeming defense of Neo-Nazis offended his Jewish heritage, but instead stayed until he did resign over Trump's trade policies — a money-over-morals regime that feels all too familiar in 2019 America. For insiders uncomfortable with a clearly unfit president, there are both carrots and sticks for keeping one's mouth shut.

The carrots? Just ask Trump's former press secretary Sean Spicer, who from an official podium told some of the grossest lies in American history, beginning on day two with the inaugural crowd size, but has continued post-Trump to toe the company line and has not only not been banned from civil society but is being rewarded with a lucrative prime-time gig on ABC's “Dancing With the Stars,” flouting it in our faces with a puffy shirt that would have been deemed too ridiculous for “Seinfeld.”

But the stick for truth-telling can be ridiculously harsh. Just ask Reality Winner, the Air Force veteran and security contractor who was so outraged that the government was covering up the extent of Russian hacking into U.S. election-system computers that she decided to risk everything by leaking

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



ka hechuraña ni chenot daibites. Taigue i hagas potput pechoña yan lodu' koduña. Esta nina' masogsug i amiguho.

Diberas ti hoñgiyun fuetsau na tinilaika gi tautau ni nina'ye daibites. Lau kumu hita mismu umatetuye inadahe ti u sala' i chenot.

Puede un' dia u guaha mas adelantun ma-amten este na chenot para benefisiun i man-nina'ye.

■ ■ ■

Ayudu: Esta mas ke bente años deste ke daibites-yu'. Lau hu estudiaye haf' sessu este na chenot.

Huli'e na megai lokue chat-infotmasion haf' este na chinat-saga. Enteru usun asukat mana para petmanente. Lache!

Presisu ta komprende na i titanus tautau taya' siña ha sede solu asukat. Poresu na hu gigimen unu na pusuelun kafe 'an oga'an ni mana'ye un' dañkulu na kichalan asukat (table spoon) para tutuhonhu. Magahet na hana' klaru hinasoghu antes de bai petsige che'chu' guma'.

■ ■ ■

Gramaderu: Hu huñgug na sige hiniñgan oficiales siha guine ni polisian Horiguchi'. Ti hu tuñgu' haf' sessu i asunto. Lau biñgbiñg na pot gastun kantida na salape kontra dikiki' na moneda gi sakan.

Magahet na este na modun gastu sumen keha. Yangin suetdun lehislatura un' gagana pa'gu haf' taimanu na mas dañkulu un' gagasta publikamente?

Haye na kompania kumakatsu gastomu? Unu yan unu, dos. Ti maput na kuentas!

the proof to the media — and is paying with a harsh 63-month prison sentence, while banned by Trump administration wardens from even speaking to the press.

A promise to reverse this injustice and issue a full pardon to Winner should be the price of admission for anyone seeking to become the 46th (or 47th) president. But as a nation, we really should address the much deeper ethical rot that turns our truth-tellers into pariahs but offers an elaborate system of rewards — social and economic — to keep quiet and not rock the boat. To be “good Americans” and just follow orders. To be a moral coward.

When we finally learn the identity of the individual who blew the whistle on Trump's treachery and triggered his impeachment — and we will — that person will rightfully become etched into the history textbooks, and remembered as a true American hero long after you and I are gone. But there will also be a page in that chapter about the likes of Kelly, Mattis, McMaster, Mnuchin, Tillerson, Cohn, Spicer, etc. — and it will not be kind. History is always cruel to those who pretend to serve their country but who ultimately betrayed it with their silence.

REPUBLICANS






From Page 10

Ukraine. It's about a president who is threatening perceived foes with charges of treason and inciting his supporters with visions of civil war. It's about a dismantling of a bedrock principle in this country that regardless of the degree of our disagreements, we have structures in place to peaceably find a way forward.

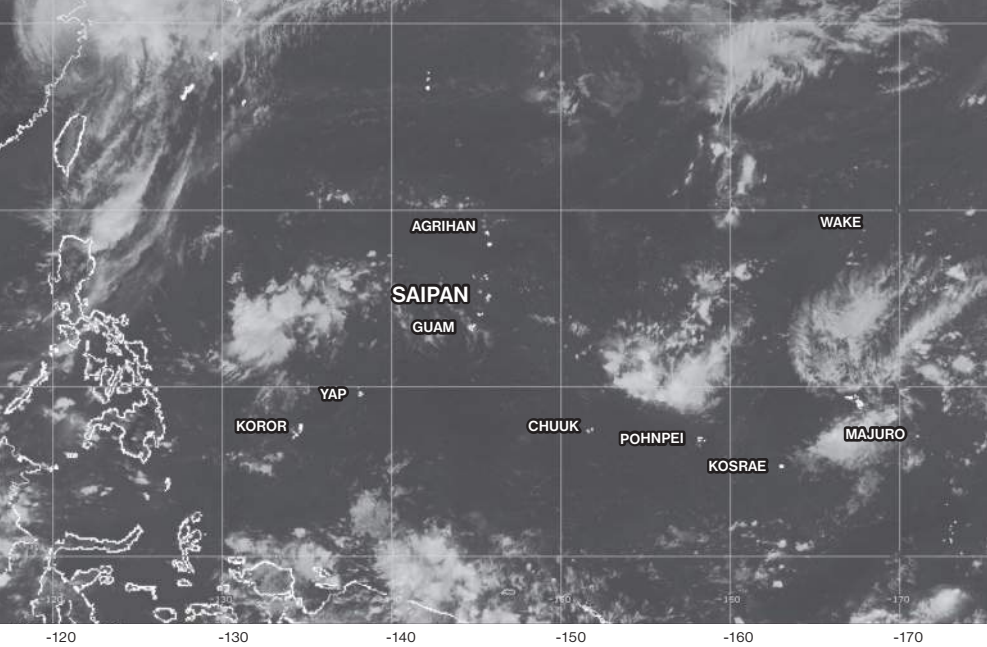
We wish Republicans would protect those principles and structures, but we no longer believe it will happen. Neither does Donald Trump.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. North to northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	89°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	87°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:30 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows that convection has dissipated to the north of Saipan and thunderstorms are not longer expected for the rest of the day. As a result the marine forecast has been updated to reflect fair weather in Saipan waters. Isolated thunderstorms are still expected to develop overnight across the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	87° / 83°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 50°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 57°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 79°	
Honolulu	Windy	87° / 77°	
London	Cloudy	59° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°	
Melbourne	Sunny	82° / 54°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	90° / 61°	
Osaka	Thunderstorm	82° / 73°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 39°	
Busan	Thunderstorm	77° / 70°	
Rome	Showers	77° / 61°	
Salem	Sunny	95° / 69°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 50°	
Seoul	Rain	77° / 66°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	96° / 72°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:04 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.01	
10:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94	
4:29 PM	LOW TIDE	0.81	
9:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:17 AM	9:07 PM	-
Thursday	10:16 AM	9:56 PM	-
Friday	11:13 AM	10:48 PM	-
Saturday	12:09 AM	11:40 PM	-
Sunday	1:01 AM	-	-

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION

Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
BC802	4:45pm	7:30pm	Sep 20 to 22	BC801	10:00am	2:40pm	Sep 20 to 22
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 3 Sep 29 to Oct 6	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	4, 7 Sep 29 to Oct 6
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

Business

N15 Architects presents first core home

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan and Tinian in October last year, N15 Architects extended its expertise to build residential homes that will answer two needs of the islands—affordability and resistance to super typhoons.

Almost a year later, they have completed their first Core Home in As Perdido and presented it to the public yesterday.

It is a called Core Home because it is a pre-cast modular concrete system that N-15 designed to reduce cost and construction time by getting components off-island and building them on-site, according to senior project manager Fred Camacho.

“We call it Core Homes because when people come and talk to us they have a grand idea of what they want but realistically, their budget does not allow for that dream home yet... so we try to educate them and start with the basic house,” he said.

Camacho said a Core Home answers budget restraints and could be the answer to the islands’ labor shortage.

“Core Home is easily expandable whether you choose to use our system or use traditional construction, it will still work. So, start with the Core Home and then expand...the construction of the first Core Home took four months and 10 people to build and since the system is now in place, fu-



BEA CABRERA

N15 Architects project manager Sunny Sun, senior project manager Fred Camacho, home owners Anthony S. Manahane and wife, Rep. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) at the ribbon-cutting of the first N15 Architects Core Home held yesterday in As Perdido.

ture projects will be constructed in less time” he added.

Core Home is the first pre-fabricated, pre-cast homes from top to bottom that is fully concrete.

“Everything from the exterior to the interior is fully concrete so from top to bottom, the house is solid...the house is fully insulated as the structure walls have insulation in them and after we put the roof panels in, a secondary insulation is installed and concrete is

put on top of that,” he said.

“... we pitched the roof in a way that here is a provision for rain catchment in the future and electricals were also set up in the event that you want to set up solar panels,” he added.

Aside from being 100% concrete and home-efficient, Core Homes engineering meet and exceed all the current codes and certified for 225 mph winds so owners can get financing and insurance. The first Core Home is owned by Anthony S. Man-

ahane and his wife.

“Our house was destroyed by Yutu last year and we lived in a tent for a several months... I was given aid from Federal Emergency Management Agency but it wasn’t enough so I applied with Small Business Administration and got approved,” he said.

“We went to Chris [Fryling] of N15, and they gave me an offer that cannot be beaten by other contractors. I was also soliciting for other quotations but

Core Home is right for our budget and needs. As I look at our new home, it is a great structure and my family and I cannot wait to move in,” he added.

N15 offers four Core Home models ranging from 609 square feet with two bedrooms and one bath for approximately \$85,000 depending on-site work to 1,550 square feet with three bedroom, two baths, with a carport which costs around \$198,000 depending on-site work.

“It’s a little bit of something for everybody and typhoon shutters comes as part of the package,” Camacho said.

“Anybody can own a Core Home whether your former home was destroyed by a typhoon or just for the simple reason that you are building your own house as long as you have a land that you legally own, we can build your Core Home there,” he added.

Rep. Edwin K. Prost (Ind-Saipan), who was present at the ribbon-cutting, said Core Home is an answer to people’s dreams of owning their own house. “There has been a lot of discussions in the Legislature of building homes that would survive super typhoons so when Fred Camacho of N15 described the home and to actually see it built and standing now, it’s a beautiful house and families will not worry about a future typhoon,” he said.

“...when you have the ability to access Federal Emergency Management Agency or SBA loans that is affordable with very low interest, you can now pay for a house that you really own and not rent out which sometimes costs more. We are excited to see more homeowners to take advantage of this,” he added.

N15 Architects has been in the construction business for 22 years and is known for building commercial structures. It currently has several homes that are now under construction on Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. For more information, call (670) 233-5115 or visit them at Suite 700, 7th floor Marianas Business Plaza with P.O. Box 5339, Saipan 96950

Forever 21 bankruptcy reflects teens’ new shopping behavior

NEW YORK (AP)—For years, teens flocked to Forever 21’s massive stores at the nation’s malls for its speedy take on fashion, like its \$5 shimmery halter tops and \$25 dresses.

But the chain that helped popularize so-called fast fashion has moved too slow for a new generation of young customers.

The Los Angeles-based privately held chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Sunday, a victim of rapidly changing shopping tastes among teens who are increasingly turning away from malls and heading to trendy online sites.

They’re also interested in buying eco-friendly fashions, like pants made from recycled plastic, not stuff they’ll just throw away after a few uses. And they’re gravitating toward online second sites where clothes can be used over and over again. In fact,

the secondhand fashion business is projected to reach \$64 billion by 2028, nearly 1.5 times the size of fast fashion, according to a report by Global Data Retail.

The bankruptcy marks a dramatic fall for the retailer. Forever 21 was founded in 1984 and, along with other fast-fashion chains like H&M and Zara, rode a wave of popularity among young customers that took off in the mid-1990s. It even stole customers from traditional stalwarts like Abercrombie & Fitch and American Eagle.

Their popularity grew during the Great Recession, when shoppers sought fashion bargains. But Forever 21 went on an aggressive expansion just as shoppers were moving more online. Now, it’s closing as many as 350 stores globally, including as many as 178 stores in the U.S. As of the bankruptcy filing, it operated

about 800 stores globally, including more than 500 stores in the U.S. The company says it will still operate its e-commerce business, which accounts for 16% of total sales.

“The world has changed, and Forever 21 didn’t change with it,” said Stacey Widlitz, president of SW Retail Advisors. “And the walls closed in, in terms of the competition.”

Widlitz and others noted that the chain was also dogged by the deteriorating quality of its clothing.

Still, fast fashion isn’t dead; it’s just being reinvented. Swedish chain H&M, which has struggled to keep up with competitors, is showing signs of a comeback and is reinventing itself by offering more eco-friendly fashions. The chain, which once set the standard for speed by flying in frequent small batches, is also digitizing certain areas of its manufacturing process.

Japan raises consumption tax, reviving worries over economy

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s national sales tax was raised to 10% from 8% on Tuesday, amid concerns that the long-delayed move could derail the fragile growth path of the world’s third largest economy.

Government officials say ample measures have been taken to minimize the impact of the hike, which took effect Tuesday. Previous tax increases, a 2-point increase to 5% in 1997 and another to 8% in 2014, brought on recessions.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe postponed this hike twice but said it was unavoidable given rising costs for elder care and a growing national debt as the population ages and shrinks. After decades of fiscal deficits that have taken the debt to more than twice the size of the economy, Abe has promised a return to balance by 2025, but that will require the economy to continue expanding at a healthy pace.

The economy expanded at an annual pace of 1.8 percent in April-June, faster than anticipated. But slowing exports and rising prices for oil are expected to drag growth lower in coming months.

The increase covers most goods and services from clothes, electronics to transportation and medical fees, but the government has sought to soften its impact with tax breaks for home and car purchases. It also kept the tax for groceries unchanged for low-income households and is providing free pre-school education to families.

“We’ll take expeditious and utmost efforts to ward off any risk of a downward swing in the economy,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on the eve of the tax hike.

Analysts say the tax hike poses a deflationary risk at a time of growing uncertainty over trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

“Considering the current economic conditions, the timing is bad,” said Toshihiro Nagahama, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute.

He noted that the economy has slowed since late last year and that demand generated by the construction boom for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics has faded. The fear is that might undo years of efforts to escape a deflationary rut where falling prices due to slack demand depress investment, a main driver of growth.

The tax hike will put an estimated additional burden on households of more than 2 trillion yen (\$18 billion).

The exceptions and incentives built into the new sales tax regime are causing confusion. For instance, purchases “to go” at Starbucks Coffee outlets are still taxed at 8%, while customers choosing to dine in have to pay 10%.

Nation

Trump sought Australia's help on Russia probe origins

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump recently asked the Australian prime minister and other foreign leaders to help Attorney General William Barr with an investigation into the origins of the Russia probe that shadowed his administration for more than two years, the Justice Department said Monday.

The revelation underscores the extent to which Trump remains consumed by special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, and the ways in which he has used the apparatus of the United States government to investigate what he believes are its politically motivated origins. It also highlights Barr's hands-on role in leading that investigation, including traveling overseas for personal meetings with foreign law enforcement officials.

Trump's interactions with foreign leaders—and Barr's role in those discussions—are under heightened scrutiny now that the House has launched an impeachment inquiry into the president. The probe centers on Trump's summertime call with Ukraine's president, revealed by a whistleblower CIA intelligence officer, in which Trump presses for help investigating Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump has heaped praise on Barr since he took the helm of the Justice Department earlier this year, viewing him as a key ally for his political agenda, including his push to "investigate the investigators"



in the Russia probe. But the Justice Department has denied Barr had any knowledge that Trump encouraged Ukraine to work with him on a separate investigation into Biden.

The president has sought, without evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv.

Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been

no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son. There is no evidence that Biden's son was ever under investigation in Ukraine.

The July 25 call by Trump to Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy prodding him to dig up dirt on Biden was separate from the numerous conversations Trump had with foreign leaders as part of the investigation into the Russia probe.

Justice spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said Trump made those calls on Barr's behalf.

"At Attorney General Barr's request, the President

has contacted other countries to ask them to introduce the Attorney General and Mr. Durham to appropriate officials," Kupec said.

Trump was requesting help for U.S. Attorney John Durham's investigation into the origins of special counsel Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The investigation outraged Trump, who cast it as a politically motivated "witch hunt."

Durham's investigation has been cheered by Trump allies, who believe the original FBI probe into Russia's election interference was

employed a double agent in 2015 who conducted exchanges with Peng in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Columbus, Georgia.

Over six occasions between 2015 and 2018, Peng would secure a hotel room and leave up to \$20,000 there, authorities said in the criminal complaint. The double agent would then get a key to the room, take the cash and leave a digital card containing information, it said.

Peng would then take the card and travel to Beijing to meet Chinese intelligence officers, authorities said.

Authorities say the unnamed double agent went to the FBI in 2015 after China's intelligence department tried to recruit the person as a spy. The unnamed agent was told by Chinese intelligence officials at a meeting in 2015 that "Ed" was reliable and had family in China, according to the complaint.

US citizen accused of spying on behalf of Chinese government

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A California tour operator charged by U.S. officials with illegally ferrying information to China was a quiet and friendly man with a taste for luxury cars, a neighbor said.

Xuehua Edward Peng, 56, of Hayward was charged in documents unsealed Monday with being an illegal foreign agent and delivering classified U.S. national security information to officials in China, U.S. Attorney David L. Anderson said in San Francisco.

Anderson accused Peng, whom he described as a tour operator for Chinese students and visitors, of a "combination of age-old spycraft and modern technology."

"The charges announced today provide a rare glimpse into the secret efforts of the People's Republic of China to obtain classified national security information from the United States," Anderson said.

Danilo Serrano said Peng

moved in across the street from him about five years ago and kept a Lexus and Porsche parked outside. About a year ago, he bought "an expensive Tesla SUV, the nice one where the doors go up," Serrano said.

Serrano recalled thinking, "Man, he must have a lot of money."

The U.S. is engaged in a trade war with China. But John Bennett, the FBI agent in charge of San Francisco, said international politics had nothing to do with the arrest and charges against Peng.

"We have criminal spies that are running around in our area of responsibility and it's the FBI's mission to stop this, so what's going on in the rest of the world, it doesn't matter to us," he said.

FBI Director Christopher Wray has said China poses a more serious counterintelligence threat to the United States than any other country, including Russia.

In July, he testified before a Senate panel that the FBI had more than 1,000 investigations involving economic espionage and attempted intellectual property theft, nearly all of which lead back to China.

The Justice Department has brought multiple cases in the past year involving Chinese espionage and has also brought charges against operatives working with the Ministry of State Security as law enforcement officials grapple with how to deal with an increasing threat of China trying to steal information from American companies.

Last October, prosecutors charged a Chinese spy with attempting to steal trade secrets from several American aviation and aerospace companies, the first time an MSS operative was extradited to the U.S.

Anderson did not say how long Peng had been operating as an unregistered spy for China's Ministry of State Security, only that the FBI

ACROSS THE NATION

2nd Indian hunger-striker released from immigration custody

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A second Indian man who refused to eat for more than 70 days in U.S. immigration custody has been released after a year in detention. Gurjant Singh left a detention center in El Paso Monday, according to his lawyer, Jessica Miles. Full Coverage: Immigration Singh refused meals starting on July 9 along with another detainee who was also released last week. Their lawyers say they resumed eating after ICE agreed to their release. His lawyer says the 23-year-old fears returning to India because he was beaten on several occasions for supporting a minority political party before fleeing to the U.S. to seek asylum. Immigration officials say he entered the country illegally and was ordered deported after a judge denied his asylum application. Authorities let him be released while he appeals the decision.

Engineer admits hacking Yahoo accounts searching for images

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A former Yahoo software engineer has pleaded guilty to hacking into the accounts of some 6,000 Yahoo users in search of sexual photos and videos. The U.S. Attorney's Office says Reyes Daniel Ruiz admitted in court Monday that he mostly tar-

AP
President Donald Trump listens to music by military musicians during a State Dinner in the Rose Garden at the White House, Friday, Sept. 20, 2019, in Washington.

driven by Democrats.

Barr traveled to Italy last week with Durham, where the two met with government officials as part of the investigation, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. As part of his investigation, Durham is examining what led the U.S. to open a counterintelligence investigation on the Trump campaign and the roles various countries played in that probe. The attorney general's presence on the trip exemplifies how much of an active role the nation's chief law enforcement officer is taking in overseeing the investigation.

geted accounts belonging to younger women, including his personal friends and work colleagues. Prosecutors say once he gained access to Yahoo accounts, he was able to compromise iCloud, Facebook, Gmail and other online services in search of private images. The 34-year-old stored the material on a private computer that he destroyed after his employer noticed the suspicious activity. Ruiz, of the Northern California city of Tracy, pleaded guilty to one count of computer intrusion. He faces five years in prison when he's sentenced Feb. 3.

Police: Officers shoot man who pulled knife on medics

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (AP)—Police in Georgia say officers have shot a man who pulled a knife on medical personnel responding to a hit and run. The Gainesville Police Department said Monday evening on Facebook that fire department personnel were attempting to give medical aid to a man when he pulled a knife on them. Police officers intervened and tried to defuse the situation but resorted to firing their weapons. The police department says the wounded man was taken to a hospital. An officer also went to the hospital for observation. The department did not give details about their conditions. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation will handle the investigation into the shooting.

Asia

S. Korea shows its US-made F-35 stealth jets for 1st time

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Tuesday displayed some of its newly purchased U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighter jets for the first time during its Armed Forces Day ceremony, a development that will likely infuriate rival North Korea.

Under its biggest-ever weapons purchase, South Korea is to buy 40 F-35 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin by 2021. The first few batches of the aircraft arrived in the South this year. North Korea has sharply reacted to the deliveries, calling

them a grave provocation that violate recent inter-Korean agreements aimed at lowering military tensions.

On Tuesday, President Moon Jae-in reviewed military planes including an F-35, missiles and artillery systems that were displayed on the ground at the start of the ceremony at an air base in southeastern South Korea.

Moon and other top officials later watched three F-35s and other warplanes flying in close formation one after another.

In a televised speech during

the ceremony, Moon said he felt “secure about the might of our military armed with new equipment such as F-35As that we disclosed for the first time.” He said South Koreans would also be “very proud” of the military capacity.

South Korea previously publicized photos of its F-35s, but it was the first time the aircraft were shown at an official event since the first two of the planes were delivered here in

March, according to the state-run Defense Acquisition Program Administration.

Moon, a liberal who espouses greater reconciliation with North Korea, was behind a flurry of North Korea-U.S. diplomacy on the North’s nuclear program. During his third summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang last September, the two Koreas struck a set of agreements meant to ease

military animosities such as halting front-line live-fire exercises and dismantling guard posts along their border.

Many conservatives in South Korea have said the deals greatly undermined South Korea’s national security because North Korea’s nuclear threats remain intact.

Moon said during Tuesday’s ceremony that strong national security would support dialogue and cooperation

with North Korea and an effort to build a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Nuclear diplomacy largely remains stalled since the second summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Vietnam in February collapsed due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea. Kim and Trump held a brief, impromptu meeting at the Korean border in late June and agreed to resume diplomacy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Towering arch bridge falls in Taiwan bay, 5 feared missing

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A towering bridge over a bay in eastern Taiwan collapsed Tuesday, sending an oil tanker truck falling onto boats in the water below. Interior Minister Hsu Kuo-yung told reporters about five people were feared to have been on the bridge when it collapsed. Ten people were sent to hospitals, six of them with serious injuries. Fishing vessels were helping to search for the missing, Hsu told Formosa TV. The bridge collapsed about 9:30 a.m. in Nanfangao, a tiny but often-crowded Pacific coast fishing village. The weather at the time of the collapse was sunny, hours after a typhoon swept across parts of the island. National Fire Agency spokesperson Su Hong-wei said the tanker’s fall smashed three boats. Typhoon Mitag had brought high winds and heavy rain to northern Taiwan on Monday night before moving northeast. Flights and ferry services had been canceled Monday.

Thai prime minister advises masks against Bangkok smog

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand’s prime minister urged residents of Bangkok to wear face masks on Monday after smog covered parts of the capital in what some fear is a harbinger of more pollution to come. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha warned in a statement on his Facebook page that the concentration of tiny dust particles called PM2.5 in the air had reached unsafe levels and said he has ordered government agencies to expedite anti-pollution measures. He also asked the construction and manufacturing sectors to reduce activities that release pollutants.

Smog levels are expected to stay high for the next two or three days. The head of the country’s Pollution Control Department, Pralong Damrongthai, said the visibly dirty air was not caused by smoke originating from forest fires in Indonesia. Since last month, haze blown by monsoon winds from fires in Indonesia has affected nearby countries including the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and parts of southern Thailand, raising concerns about aviation safety and health. Indonesian officials say they have made progress in containing the fires, including successful efforts at rainmaking, which they say reduced the number of fire “hotspots” from more than 5,000 about two weeks ago to 491 on Sunday.

Pakistan says Indian mortars kill woman, boy in Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP)—India and Pakistan have again traded fire along their highly militarized frontier in the disputed Kashmir region killing a woman and a boy in a border village in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Raja Tariq, a local administrator in Nakyal sector, says Indian mortars “fired unprovoked” Sunday and hit a home in Drary village, killing 60-year-old widow Salamat Bibi and wounding a boy who later died in a hospital. Another woman was also wounded. The two South Asian neighbors regularly exchange fire along the so-called Line of Control, which splits the region of Kashmir claimed by both countries. They fought two wars over Kashmir. Tensions increased between the two nuclear-armed nations since Aug. 5, when India downgraded the autonomy of its side of Kashmir and imposed tighter controls on the area.



A South Korean fighter pilot, left, stands near F-35 A Stealth in the 71st anniversary of Armed Forces Day at the Air Force Base in Daegu, South Korea Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019. AP

North Korea complains at UN about US ‘provocations’

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—North Korea decried the stalled state of its nuclear standoff with the United States and told the international community Monday that the fault lies with Washington’s “political and military provocations.”

“It depends on the U.S.,” North Korean Ambassador Kim Song said, whether the negotiations “will become a window of opportunity or an occasion that will hasten the crisis.”

Speaking at the U.N. General Assembly’s major annual gathering, he complained that the U.S. and South Korea are failing to follow through on separate summit pledges.

“The situation on the Korean peninsula has not come out of the vicious cycle of increased tension, which is entirely attributable to the political and military provocations perpetrated by the U.S.,” the ambassador said.

Negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have apparently been frozen since a summit between Trump and leader Kim Jong Un broke down in February, though Trump and Kim met in June at the Korean border in an effort to push things forward. Trump became the first U.S. president to set foot in North Korea.

Trump said last week that another summit meeting with Kim “could happen soon” but didn’t elaborate.

Pyongyang wants relief from crushing sanctions imposed over its push for nuclear-armed missiles that can viably target the U.S. mainland, but Washington wants stronger nuclear disarmament steps first.

Perhaps hoping for a thaw, both nations have struck more harmonious tones on the world stage than at the Gen-

eral Assembly two years ago, when Trump belittled Kim as “Rocket Man” and threatened to “totally destroy” his country. In response, North Korea issued a rare direct statement from Kim, vowing to “tame the mentally deranged U. S. dotard with fire.”

In advance of Monday’s speech, North Korea’s foreign ministry said Friday that the U.S. had failed to follow through on summit agreements but that the North was placing hope in the U.S. president’s “wise option and bold decision.”

North Korea complains that the U.S. has boosted sanctions and resumed U.S.-South Korean military drills that Pyongyang has long decried. The North’s U.N. ambassador called on Seoul on Monday to “put an end to the big-power worship and the policy of dependence on foreign forces.”

At the same time, the North has continued conducting banned weapons tests. Trump has downplayed their significance, however.

In his General Assembly speech last week, Trump credited his administration with pursuing “bold diplomacy” with North Korea and called it “full of tremendous untapped potential” but said that “to realize that promise, North Korea must denuclearize.”

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has held a series of summits with North Korea’s leader, told the General Assembly last week that mutual security assurances would allow faster nuclear disarmament and peace on the peninsula.

He said his nation “will guarantee the security of North Korea. I hope North Korea will do the same for South Korea.”

World

Peru lurches into uncertainty after president shuts congress

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru is lurching into a new period of political uncertainty Tuesday after President Martín Vizcarra dissolved the opposition-controlled congress and called new elections that he contends are needed to uproot the nation's endemic corruption.

Renegade lawmakers defied the chief of state, staying in their seats late into the night and even voting to suspend him from office and appoint a vice president who recently broke ranks in his place.

But thousands of people took to the streets in the capital waving Peruvian flags and celebrating Vizcarra's decision in a country where nearly every living president has been implicated in the Odebrecht graft scandal.

"We are making history that will be remembered by future generations," Vizcarra said in a national address Monday evening. "And when they do, I hope they understand the magnitude of this fight that we are in today against an endemic evil that has caused much harm to our country."

The stunning turn could spell new instability as Peru grapples with the fallout of the Odebrecht probe, plummeting faith in public institutions and an inexperienced president struggling to govern.

Nonetheless, Vizcarra's decision was at least initially cheered by Peruvians who have been clamoring for new



A supporter of President Martín Vizcarra chants slogans outside Congress after the president dissolved the legislature in Lima, Peru, Monday, Sept. 30, 2019.

congressional elections to replace the majority party, led by a former first daughter and presidential candidate who is now behind bars. Hundreds gathered outside congress honking horns, chanting and carrying signs with phrases like "Get out, corrupt politicians!" Others tried to force their way into the legislature to get lawmakers out but were driven back by police

with tear gas.

"Peruvians will not shed many tears," said Steven Levitsky, a Harvard University political scientist who has extensively studied the nation.

Opposition leaders denounced the move as the work of a "dictator," refusing to leave congress and instead approving a resolution to suspend Vizcarra for "breaking the constitutional order." Min-

utes later they swore in Mercedes Aráoz, the vice president who recently broke with Vizcarra over his push to hold early elections next year.

The acts likely carry only symbolic weight since congress is considered vacated.

"I know many Peruvians are upset," said Aráoz, who was greeted by applauding lawmakers singing the national anthem. "I share that

anger but the solution for a crisis like this is not irresponsible gestures."

Vizcarra, then the vice president, rose to the presidency last year after President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski resigned following revelations that his private consulting firm had re-

ceived undisclosed payments from Odebrecht, the Brazilian construction giant that has admitted to doling out millions of dollars to politicians around Latin America in exchange for lucrative public works contracts.

Though with little political expertise on his resume, Vizcarra rose in popularity as he championed anti-corruption initiatives. But he struggled to push legislation through congress, instead repeatedly utilizing a "vote of confidence" through which he could threaten to dissolve the legislature if lawmakers didn't approve his proposals.

The mechanism is aimed at resolving conflicts between the executive and legislative branch and allows the president to shut down congress if lawmakers reject two such votes. Congress rejected a previous vote of confidence during Kuczynski's administration.

Most recently, Vizcarra chastised lawmakers for rushing to a vote on replacing six of the seven magistrates on the Constitutional Tribunal. The court is expected to decide several important cases in the months ahead, including a habeas corpus request to free Fujimori, who is being held as prosecutors investigate her for allegedly laundering money from Odebrecht.

Storm in central Europe kills 3, disrupts travel and power

BERLIN (AP)—High winds swept across parts of central Europe on Monday, leaving three people dead, disrupting transport and causing power outages.

Slovak police said a 14-year-old boy was killed by a fallen tree in Nitra, east of Bratislava, and an unspecified number of his fellow students were injured, one of them seriously. In eastern Germany, police said a 41-year-old driver was killed when a tree fell on his car near the town of Wittenberg.

In southern Poland, firefighters said one person was killed and two injured when a tree fell on their car, while five more people were injured in other locations. Firefighters were removing fallen trees from roads across Poland, while several hundred thousand people remained without electric power after power lines were broken.

Also in the Czech Republic, some 30,000 households were without electricity, while fallen trees disrupted roads and train travel.

Long-distance train lines

from Berlin to Hamburg and Hannover, and to Stralsund in the country's northeastern corner, were among those closed on Monday morning and then reopened. In southern Germany, a fallen tree forced the closure of the Nuremberg-Augsburg line.

Near Wolfsburg, between Hannover and Berlin, a high-speed train ran into a tree that had fallen on the tracks. The driver was slightly injured.

Fallen trees also knocked down power lines near Leipzig, leaving more than 5,000 people in the region without electricity for hours. Berlin's two zoos were closed for the day because of a risk of falling branches, and animals brought indoors.

Near Dortmund in western Germany, the fire service used a boat and makeshift walkways to rescue sheep from a field flooded by heavy rain. News agency dpa reported the field was submerged under as much as 2 meters (6 1/2 feet) of water, and that some animals died in the flooding. Around 200 were rescued.

UK's Johnson denies allegations of patronage, groping

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson battled to fend off allegations of improper patronage and groping a woman as he prepared a final push Monday to fulfill his pledge to lead his country out of the European Union in just over a month—and, he hopes, move British politics beyond its fracture over Europe.

Johnson sought to energize Conservative members and lawmakers—wary after three years of Brexit gridlock—at the party's annual conference, but he was forced to deny a journalist's claim that he had grabbed her thigh at a private lunch two decades ago.

Sunday Times columnist Charlotte Edwards said the incident took place when she worked at The Spectator, a conservative newsmagazine, while Johnson was its editor.

Asked if the allegation was true, Johnson said: "No."

Edwards stood by her story, tweeting: "If the prime minister doesn't recollect the

incident then clearly I have a better memory than he does."

Johnson also is under scrutiny for claims that an American businesswoman, Jennifer Arcuri, received money and perks from London coffers while Johnson was mayor of the capital between 2008 and 2016.

He denies any wrongdoing involving Arcuri, who was given grants and places on overseas trade trips for her small tech startup, saying everything was done "with full propriety." The case has been referred to Britain's police watchdog, which will decide whether to investigate Johnson for misconduct in public office.

Johnson, who took over as Conservative leader and prime minister from Theresa May two months ago, has vowed that Britain will leave the European Union on the scheduled date of Oct. 31 with or without a divorce deal governing future relations with the bloc. His foes in Parliament—

who include some longtime members of his own party—are determined to avoid a no-deal exit, which economists say would disrupt trade with the EU and plunge Britain into recession.

Legislators have already passed a law that compels the government to seek a delay to Brexit if it can't strike a deal with the EU by Oct. 19. But with Johnson saying he would rather be "dead in a ditch" than postpone Britain's departure, opposition parties are seeking ways to make sure he complies.

Opposition leaders held a strategy meeting Monday in London, with no definitive conclusion. They ruled out an immediate attempt to topple the government with a no-confidence vote. That could trigger an election, but not until after Oct. 31.

Jo Swinson, leader of the centrist Liberal Democrats, said the parties would continue to meet "to plan out different scenarios and different

options, including the possibility of an insurance option of a government of national unity" if Johnson's government was brought down by lawmakers.

The personal allegations against Johnson overshadowed the Conservative Party's four-day annual conference in the northwestern England city of Manchester, where Johnson is trying to rally the party—and prepare for an election that could come within weeks—under the slogan "Get Brexit Done."

Billboards around the cavernous Manchester convention center promised a bright future in which Britain is no longer consumed and divided by Brexit: "Get Brexit done—invest in schools and police."

In a keynote speech, Treasury chief Sajid Javid promised many millions in new investment, and pledged to raise the minimum wage, currently 8.21 pounds (\$10) an hour, to 10.50 pounds (\$13) within five years.

Focus

By KEN MORITSUGU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—President Xi Jinping has an ambitious goal for China: to achieve “national rejuvenation” as a strong and prosperous nation by 2049, which would be the 100th anniversary of Communist Party rule. One problem: Donald Trump wants to make the United States great again too.

The emerging clash between a rising power and the world’s dominant one is front and center in a new set of challenges that the Chinese Communist Party faces as it celebrates 70 years in power on Tuesday.

The party is all but sure to rule longer than its Soviet Union counterpart, which governed for 74 years until its collapse in 1991 under the weight of economic stagnation. Conversely, China’s Communist Party engineered a remarkable policy shift that has lifted millions out of poverty and transformed the country into a global economic force, all while cracking down on dissent.

But this formula, which

served the party well through years of double-digit growth, is in need of reinvention as the economy moderates, the population ages and Xi’s ambitions, both economic and military, collide with America’s interests. In retrospect, as challenging as they may have seemed at the time, the easy years are over.

“The last 30 years, they had a pretty good idea, as long as the party delivers strong economic growth—be pragmatic, maintain domestic stability, do not screw up, do not take big risks—they’ll be OK,” said Minxin Pei, an expert on Chinese politics at Claremont McKenna College in California. “Now today they don’t know.”

Through much of China’s high-growth era, the United States and other developed countries were willing to help with technology and investment. Many believed that as China grew more interdependent with the rest of the world, it would be drawn into the Western-dominated system that governs international relations. In line with that, China joined the World Trade Organization

in 2001, agreeing to abide by its rules in return for better access to overseas markets.

Even then, there were voices that warned against letting China in. Today, from the U.S. to Australia and parts of Europe, those voices are coming to the fore.

The Trump administration, taking the view that China is a threat, has restricted the access of Chinese companies to American technology and hit its imports with tariffs, prompting Beijing to impose duties on American products in an escalating trade war that threatens the global economy.

Militarily, the two nations are playing cat and mouse in the South China Sea as China’s navy extends its reach into waters that have long been patrolled by the Americans. China believes the U.S., India and others are bent on containing its rise—or, in the mind of China’s leaders, its rightful return to its former position as a dominant Asian power until Western and later Japanese forces arrived in the 19th century and inflicted what China calls a century of

humiliation.

“China will ... continue to solve problems through cooperation with the outside world, but China must get prepared to use the baton to uphold its legitimate rights and defend what it has achieved in the past 70 years,” said Li Qingsi, an international studies professor at Renmin University in Beijing.

On one level, China’s trajectory suggests that a collision with the U.S. was inevitable. On another, Xi has made no secret of his ambitions to make China an economic and military power, upending the approach laid out by former leader Deng Xiaoping of keeping a low international profile. His government has said it will not be cowed by threats as it pushes back at U.S. demands on trade and expands its presence in the South China Sea.

Pei traces the shift in approach to 2008, four years before Xi came to power, when China debuted on the global stage as host of the Beijing Olympics and emerged relatively unscathed from the global financial crisis. A resulting assertiveness has ac-

celerated under Xi, and Pei believes it is China’s conduct that pushed U.S. policymakers to take a harder line, not its growing economic and military strength alone.

The new assertiveness will be on full display Tuesday with tanks and missiles in a major military parade that is part of the 70th anniversary celebrations. It’s a message that plays well domestically, instilling national pride, but fuels overseas fears of China and its intentions.

“Xi has come in and said, ‘We’ve laid low long enough,’” said David Zweig, a longtime China researcher and emeritus professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. “He feels that China is now strong enough to make up for those 100 years of humiliation, which he talks about all the time, and to be a great power.”

The party faces domestic challenges too. Even before the trade war, economic growth was bound to slow as the country reached middle-income levels. The one-child policy, which the party introduced around 1980 to control

population growth, has left China with fewer workers to support an aging population. As incomes have risen, the public’s focus has shifted from purely economic improvement to quality of life issues, one reason Xi has made the environment a priority.

No one is predicting the demise of the Chinese Communist Party anytime soon. Zweig notes that not only did the Soviets fail to deliver economically, they also introduced political freedoms that gave people the ability to complain about it.

Chinese party leaders did the opposite, opening the economy while crushing student democracy protesters at Tiananmen Square in 1989. They have built a sophisticated surveillance and intelligence network that, if needed, gives them considerable control over society and the internet.

“They are a very powerful state,” Zweig said. “It will not be very easy for people to overthrow them. There’s going to have to be some unbelievable crisis before they can really go down.”

Analysis: New challenges confront

China’s Communists at 70



AP
In this Sept. 3, 2015, file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping is displayed on a screen as Type 99A2 Chinese battle tanks take part in a parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of Japan’s surrender during World War II held in front of Tiananmen Gate in Beijing. Xi has an ambitious goal for China: to achieve “national rejuvenation” as a strong and prosperous nation by 2049, which would be the 100th anniversary of Communist Party rule. One problem: U.S. President Donald Trump wants to make the United States great again too.

Good Housekeeping

By JESSICA DAMIANO
NEWSDAY

The day lilies have faded, and chrysanthemums are stepping up to take their place. Sure, they'll lend an autumnal backdrop as we sip pumpkin lattes while wearing football jerseys, but then what? Once the leaves have dropped and the coneflowers have become brittle, brown shadows of their former selves, where's a plant lover to turn?

Indoor plants offer "a multitude of benefits to residential and commercial spaces," advises Jonathan Lehrer, chair of the Horticulture Department at Farmingdale State College and who teaches a course on indoor plants. And when people "become more dissociated from the natural world, indoor plants help preserve a tenuous connection," he adds.

But take care: Houseplants, unlike garden plants, are completely reliant on their owners for sunlight and nutrition. Get grounded in these fundamentals, then consider my picks for this year's trendsetters.

THE BASICS

Water, sunlight, nutrients. These ingredients sound easy enough, but the combination differs from plant to plant.

Generally speaking, too much water can kill any plant — even if you've tried to correct your mistake by allowing the plant and soil to dry completely. That's because waterlogged roots rot, a state that's difficult to reverse. Too little water can be deadly, as well, but most plants provide warning signs — like wilting — before succumbing to such neglect. Watering at the point of wilt usually avoid catastrophe.

So how much and how often should you water? Environmental conditions — the sunlight and humidity in your home, and the type of potting mix and

amendments in the container — play a role. In addition, gauging the moisture level by the soil's surface can mislead.

Instead of establishing a one-size-fits-all watering schedule, assess plants' needs every couple of days by inserting your finger deeply into the soil. When the soil is dry at root depth, it's time to water. Keep in mind, however, this too is a generality. Some plants prefer a consistently moist, but not soggy, soil, while others thrive in soil that dries out before being watered. And unless otherwise recommended, lighten up on watering over winter, when plant growth slows.

The best way to water most plants is to put the pot in the sink (or bathtub or shower, if the container is large) and apply water s-l-o-w-l-y until it runs out the drainage holes in the pot's bottom. Flushing the soil also helps prevent salt buildup from fertilizers that can stress plants and stunt their growth.

Most of our indoor houseplants are tropical plants that won't survive winter outdoors in our climate. On their home turf, they are exposed to high humidity that can be difficult to duplicate indoors. Insufficient humidity often manifests as browning leaf tips. Should this happen, trim affected tips with sharp scissors and expose the plant to moisture by misting daily, running a humidifier or placing the pot into a rimmed pan that contains about an inch of pebbles and water (but not so much that the pebbles float); as the water evaporates, it will create a humid microclimate.

Be sure to keep plants away from forced-air heating vents and don't put them on radiators, which can cause soil and plant-tissue dehydration — even death.

Plants need appropriate sunlight to photosynthesize, or produce food for themselves.



TNS

Houseplants, unlike garden plants, are completely reliant on their owners for sunlight and nutrition, but they repay the effort by producing a number of benefits in return.

A guide to maintaining fall houseplants, plus growing tips

A southern exposure offers the brightest light. Eastern and western exposures will provide medium light, while northern exposures probably will produce lots of shadows and, therefore, a lowlight environment. While there are plants that require the brightest exposures possible and others that thrive under office lighting, most do well with lots of indirect light. Keep in mind that even your brightest window may not provide enough sunlight for those with strong light requirements over winter, when sun exposure is at its lowest.

East- and west-facing locations are ideal for most plants, but keep them a foot or two from the brightest windows or place a sheer curtain over windows to filter sunlight.

Flowering houseplants typically are more sensitive to drafts than foliage-only plants, but all can experience ill effects from proximity to a blowing air conditioner, window drafts or an exterior door that is opened often.

THE RIGHT CONTAINER

Can you describe what size pot one should use for what size plant initially—say that you've just gotten a plant from a nursery, etc.? And how can you tell if a plant needs repotting?

Plants that outgrow their pots can become "pot bound," when roots cannot grow outward but begin to encircle themselves. To avoid this, move plants into a larger container once a year, just before they begin their active growing phase in spring. Plants should be moved to a pot that's 2 inches larger in diameter; don't be tempted to progress to a larger pot than that to avoid the task for a few years. That can result in poor soil-to-plant ratio: When it's too high, roots can't keep up so soil remains moist for too long, increasing the chance of root rot.

When repotting, cover the drainage hole with a small

rock or fragment from a broken clay pot. This will be sufficient to keep soil in while allowing excess water to drain. Add as much potting mix as necessary to ensure the plant sits at the same level as in the old pot. If plants are "pot bound," gently separate roots with your fingers before replanting. This will redirect them outward into the soil for water and nutrients.

Insert the plant into the pot and fill gaps with more potting mix. Tamp down firmly to eliminate air pockets, then water well.

PROPER NUTRIENTS

Plants growing in containers — indoors or out — require more fertilizer and water than those in the ground. If the latter get thirsty (or hungry), they can grow roots toward moisture and nutrients. Not so in pots, where they are reliant on what you provide.

Choose a granular slow-release fertilizer, which gradually releases nutrients over several months, or a liquid fertilizer, which is added to the watering can, typically with every second watering. Follow label instructions and remember that less is often more: Overfeeding is worse

than underfeeding. And some plants, such as African violets, require specialty fertilizers.

With few exceptions, fertilize only between the beginning of March and Thanksgiving Day, allowing the plant to rest from actively growing during winter.

PLANT SAFETY

When baby-proofing a home, we secure electrical sockets, drapery cords, cleaners and sharp objects. Many houseplants, however, pose danger as well, and should be kept out of reach of small children, who tend to put all sorts of things into their mouths.

Consider, too, the lure and accessibility of vining plants; place them on high shelves. Even if they are not poisonous, they can be pulled down and cause injury. And all plants pose choking hazards.

Check with National Capital Poison Control (poison.org/articles/plant or 800-222-1222) before bringing a houseplant into a home with children, and be aware that plants labeled as safe for cats or dogs might not be safe for humans (and vice versa). And remember that just because a substance (or plant) is not considered "poisonous" doesn't mean it's safe.

See A GUIDE on Next Page

The Garden Bug

Cinnamon basil is native to tropical and sub-tropical climates. It contains cinnamite, a compound that gives an intense, spicy aroma and cinnamon-like flavor. Chefs love to use this herb as an attractive garnish, or to flavor foods or hot drinks.

It has also been used in traditional medicine.

Cinnamon basil plants require hours of sunlight each day and well-drained soil. Allow space for growth up to 3 feet in height and width. Keep the soil lightly moist but never soggy.

— B. Weaver

Source: www.gardeningknowhow.com

Life & Style

Smollett case special prosecutor donated to Foxx's campaign

CHICAGO (AP)—The special prosecutor appointed to look into why the state's attorney

'Clueless' actress Stacey Dash charged with domestic battery

NEW PORT RICHEY, Fla. (AP)—An actress known for appearing in the 1990s comedy "Clueless" faces a domestic battery charge in Florida.

A Pasco County Sheriff's Office report says 52-year-old Stacey Dash was arrested Sunday night.

The report says Dash got into a verbal argument with a man at a New Port Richey

apartment. Dash allegedly dropped the case against "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett allegedly staging an attack on himself acknowledged Monday that he donated to the

Monday morning. Jail records didn't list an attorney who could be contacted for comment on her behalf.

Besides portraying Dionne Davenport in "Clueless," Dash has film and television credits beginning in the 1980s.

She worked as a Fox News commentator from 2014 to 2017.



Dash

apartment. Deputies say she pushed the man and slapped his face. Investigators noted that the man sustained red scratch marks on his left arm.

The reports say Dash was released on bail

no alcohol or drugs were involved.

A GUIDE

From Page 18

sonous," that doesn't mean it isn't "toxic"; if it's neither, it can still be harmful if eaten.

To be safe, stick with African violet, begonia, Christmas cactus, coleus, dracaena, jade, spider plant and kitchen herbs, which are among those considered safe for growing around children, according to the nonprofit National Capital Poison Center (poison.org).

TRENDSETTERS TO TRY

Out with cactuses — though we still love them — and in with unusual succulents and unique (and photogenic!) houseplants. Here are my picks for the year's hottest, which are sure to spark joy in your home.

'Krinkle Kurl' wax flower (*Hoya carnosa*)

A vining plant with tightly packed, thick, cupped leaves, 'Krinkle Kurl,' also known as Hindu rope plant, is a conversation piece. The slow-growing vining succulent requires at least four hours of direct sunlight daily, and it does best near a south-facing window or under fluorescent lights.

Allow soil to dry completely between waterings; water only sparingly during winter, when growth slows. Fertilize every other month during spring and summer with an all-purpose houseplant fertilizer diluted to half-strength.

It may take a few years, but eventually plants should produce clumps of small pink flowers during spring and summer.

I was so taken with this plant that I gifted it to my son-in-law, Jake Sacken of Sea Cliff, several months ago to "keep him company" when my daughter Justine was out of town for an extended work assignment. "The Krinkle Kurl plant has really transformed the space for me," said Sacken, who always has had an affinity for houseplants.

"Like the art you choose for your walls, different plants can bring different brands of energy into a space and make the house feel 'fresh,'" he said.

Climbing onion (*Bowiea volubilis*)

Not an onion at all, this misnamed leafless succulent grows from an exposed bulb.

The unusual climbing onion gets by on little water. Let soil dry completely between waterings, and stop watering altogether after it blooms in late summer, resuming in autumn when new growth emerges.

Preferring to be planted in a 50-50 mix of potting soil and sand for adequate drainage, the plant likes dry air and thrives when crowded in its pot. There is no need to fertilize, just provide climbing support or let it tangle around itself; either way, it will attract attention.

"I love the *Bowiea* because it presents an interesting contrast between the ordinary and the unusual," said Tristan Keil, who works at his family's wholesale nursery, Otto Keil Florist in Huntington. "The interesting part comes when it breaks dormancy — out comes this tangle of crazy vines that is totally unique and unexpected. I see so many plants coming through the nursery, it's nice to see that there's still so much variety out there."

Queen of the Night *Cereus* (*Epiphyllum oxypetalum*)

Perfect for insomniacs, this blooming orchid cactus has dinner-plate-size flowers that open at sunset and bloom until morning. Keep by an east- or west-facing window during spring, summer and fall. Dilute one-quarter teaspoon of a blooming fertilizer in a gallon of water, and water with the mixture once a week, or when soil is completely dry.

To ensure blooms, a dozen or more of which may cover the plant at once, keep in a cool, dry place (32 to 60 de-

grees) over winter, and cease watering until new buds form. Too much water or humidity may lead to root and stem diseases or fungal infections.

Flowers are prized not only for their odd blooming habit, size and beauty, but for their strong, sweet scent. "When you smell that flower when it blooms, you'll think you're in heaven," said Michael Delehanty of Patchogue. He and his wife, Cathy, former florist shop owners, enjoyed eight simultaneous blooms this year, and when they took cuttings, "even the cuttings got blooms."

Delta maidenhair fern (*Adiantum raddianum*)

Grow this capricious diva near a south or west window, rotating a quarter turn twice a week to ensure even exposure. A native of the tropics, it requires high humidity, so mist regularly or place in a pebble-and water-filled tray — unless growing in a bathroom where showers are taken daily. Keep soil consistently moist (but not soggy) and fertilize once a month with a liquid fertilizer diluted to half-strength. Repot only when pot-bound, which becomes evident when roots begin poking through the drainage holes.

Farmingdale State's Lehrer said its "ruffled bright green leaflets held aloft on thin petioles and fine texture" combine well with the "bold-textured foliage of African violets, philodendrons and moth orchids." He also stresses the importance of humidity for success growing maidenhair fern.

Citrus trees

Yes, you can grow citrus indoors. You can even get fruit if you play your cards right. Try Tahitian orange, a cross between a tangerine and a lemon, the sweetly scented Satsuma tangerine, lime, or Ponderosa or Meyer lemon.

Plant trees in a rich, well-draining medium, such as one part each peat moss and ver-

miculite and two parts sterile potting mix. Move the plant outdoors in summer to maximize sunlight, putting the entire container into the garden soil, and apply a 20-20-20 water-soluble fertilizer monthly, according to package directions.

When flowers open, hand pollinate them by touching a cotton swab to the center of each, moving pollen from one flower to the next. This will increase fruit production.

Dig up the pot at the beginning of September, give it and the plant a good rinsing with a gentle stream from a hose to remove insects and bring it indoors, where it should be kept at 65 and 70 degrees during the day, with exposure to bright, indirect light, and at 55 to 60 degrees overnight.

Keep soil moist, but not soggy, during spring and summer; reduce watering from October to February, watering lightly and only when soil is completely dry.

Young Kim of Floral Park was inspired to grow a Meyer lemon and a Trovita orange tree after his 2 1/2-year-old son, Jayden, asked for a "real orange" rather than a fruit cup.

"I found out that dwarf trees can be grown outdoors, then indoors for the winter," Kim said. "I'm hoping that one day I'll have fresh fruit to pick for my son, and to show him how the fruits we eat come from trees we grow."

Bonus 'plant': Marimo Moss ball (*Cladophora aegagropila linnaei*)
It's a plant! It's a pet! It's an algae ball!

Grow one in a tank of water, as you would a fish. You can even get it a little ceramic castle. Not technically moss, these tangled algae balls grow slowly and can outlive their human caretakers, so be sure to make arrangements for their future.

When you bring your Marimo home, place it into a clear container of water no warmer than 77 degrees (ideally be-

tion notes lawyers in the firm including Webb, a Republican, supported Foxx, a Democrat, in her campaign for state's attorney.

"I should point out that it is common for Winston partners

to host fundraisers for political candidates at our firm," Webb wrote to Judge Michael Toomin, who appointed the former U.S. attorney as special prosecutor in August. "It is also common that my Winston



Smollett

partners request that I contribute to these fundraisers."

Webb said the matter was brought to his attention last week by Michael Bromwich, an attorney for Foxx. He said Bromwich "made it clear" Foxx

won't claim any conflict of interest or make "any other objection related to this contribution."

A hearing is scheduled for Friday, during which Webb is expected to discuss the political donation with Toomin.

Lucky bamboo, corn plant, dragon plant, ribbon plant (*Dracaena* spp.)

Philodendron spp.

Peace lily (*Spathiphyllum*)

Sago palm(+) (*Cycas revolute*)

Rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*)

Snake plant (*Sansevieria*)

String of pearls (*Senecio rowleyanus*)

Weeping fig, fiddle leaf fern (*Ficus* spp.)

ZZ plant (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*)

(+ = Severely toxic plants)

NONTOXIC PLANTS

Even nontoxic plants can cause stomach upset if ingested.

African violet (*Saintpaulia* spp.)

Angel's tears (*soleirolia soleirolia*)

Areca palm (*Dypsis lutescens*)

Asparagus fern (*Asparagus densiflorus cv sprengeri*)

Bamboo palm (*Chamaedorea*)

Boston fern (*Nephrolepis exalta bostoniensis*)

Burro's tail (*Sedum morganianum*)

Cast Iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*)

Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*)

Friendship plant (*Pilea involucrata*)

Gerber daisy (*Gerbera*)

Hen and chicks (*Echeveria glauca*)

Orchids

Parlor palm (*Chamaedorea elegans*)

Peacock plant (*Calathea insignis*)

Ponytail palm (*Beaucarnea recurvata*)

Purple waffle plant (*Heimiphysa exotica*)

Spider plant (*Chlorophytum*); Although nontoxic, spider plants are often irresistible to children and pets, especially cats, which may get sick from eating the foliage; place plants out of reach.

Wax plant (*Hoya* spp.)

KEEPING PETS SAFE

Although houseplants can improve a home's décor, reduce stress and filter the air, some pose a threat to pets. Dog and cat owners should avoid plants that are poisonous, toxic or otherwise harmful to four-legged family members. Of the most popular plants, here are some to avoid — or indulge in — according to the ASPCA; visit aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-nontoxic-plants to search the complete plant database.

TOXIC PLANTS

Aloe vera

Calla lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

Chinese evergreen (*Aglaonema*)

Chrysanthemum

Dumb cane (*Diffenbachia*)

Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*) (+) — toxic to cats only

English ivy (*Hedera* spp.)

Fiddle leaf fig (*Ficus lyrata*)

Golden pothos (*Epipremnum*)

Jade plant (*Crassula ovata*)

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joaquin Phoenix has been widely praised for his transformative portrayal of the man who becomes the Joker in the new film hitting theaters this Thursday. Although he doesn't like to talk about awards, many believe this could be the year that the three-time nominee finally wins an Oscar.

The 44-year-old "Joker" star spoke to The Associated Press about his process, why he doesn't necessarily want to give a playbook for how he did it and the time he worried Robert De Niro was going to throw an ash tray at his head.

On feeling insecure about his methods:

"Some of it just feels personal. I don't know. Maybe I also get insecure and I go like, 'He shouldn't be reading that. That's a stupid thing to read. Who would study that?' I'm afraid that I might say something that there'll be some other great actor that I admire that was like, 'This guy doesn't know what he's doing. That's a terrible idea. Why would you ever study that?'"

On the 52-pound weight loss:

"Once you reach the target weight, everything changes. Like so much of what's difficult is waking up every day and being obsessed over like 0.3 pounds. Right? And you really develop like a disorder. I mean, it's wild. But I think the interesting thing for me is what I had expected and anticipated with the weight loss was these feelings of dissatis-



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from "Joker," in theaters on Oct. 4.

AP

Joaquin Phoenix on 'Joker'

WEIGHT LOSS, DANCE AND DE NIRO

faction, hunger, a certain kind of vulnerability and a weakness. But what I didn't anticipate was this feeling of kind of fluidity that I felt physically. I felt like I could move my body in ways that I hadn't been able to before. And I think that really lent itself to some of the physical movement that started to emerge as an important

part of the character."

On finding Joker's dance moves:

"I think what influenced me the most was Ray Bolger... There was a particular song called 'The Old Soft Shoe' that he performed and I saw a video of it and there's this odd arrogance almost to his movements and, really, I com-

pletely just stole it from him. He does this thing of turning his chin up. This choreographer Michael Arnold showed me that and tons of videos and I zeroed in on that one. That was Joker, right? There's an arrogance to him, really. That was probably the greatest influence. But also disco."

On the upsides of ex-

perimenting:

"There seemed to be an infinite number of ways to interpret every moment or how he might behave in any moment. And there wasn't anything that didn't make sense. So we would do scenes so many different ways and some I would cry and others I would make jokes and others I would

be angry and it would be the same scene and they all (expletive) made sense and that's so rare. There's something really exciting about that because it keeps you in this state of like perpetual investigation and trying to find something new. And I think (director and co-writer) Todd (Phillips) and I were always working to try to surprise each other with some idea. There was never a moment that I felt completely relaxed. I was always searching for something else. And there's something very exciting about that. It's so much fun acting in that way. Often times it's the opposite."

And the downsides:

"For the first time in probably 25 years I watched dailies. So Todd and I would talk about which takes we thought worked. But my favorite scene, what both of us thought was my best scene because of a particular take, that scene is not in the movie. It's a cliché, but it's a puzzle. So you take out this scene and it affects the following scene. So a take that might have been really great no longer works. The best take for the end of his rant on Murray Franklin (Robert De Niro's talk show host) just didn't work. It was a really good take just on its own but cut in with everything else it just didn't work. An earlier take, one that I didn't think was very good, was the one that worked best."

On sassing off to De Niro's character:

"It was one of my favorite parts, saying 'Murr-AY.' ... Todd loved that too. And when I did that I thought: Is De Niro just going to throw an ash tray at me?"

Happy now? Everyone is talking about 'Joker'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There may be no such thing as bad publicity, but the spotlight on "Joker" is testing the limits of that old cliché.

The origin story about the classic Batman villain has inspired pieces both in defense of and against the movie. It's been hailed as the thing that's going to finally get Joaquin Phoenix an Oscar and also decried for being "dangerous," "irresponsible" and even "incel-friendly." Last week, some parents of victims of the 2012 Aurora movie theater shooting even wrote to the Warner Bros. CEO asking for support for anti-gun causes. The studio issued a statement in response saying that the film is not "an endorsement of real-world violence of any kind."

In his 80 years as part of the culture, the Joker has always had a way of getting under people's skin—whether it's because of who the character appeals to, what he represents or even the stories actors tell

about how they got into character. But perhaps the biggest irony of all this time around is that for all the discourse and hand-wringing, the film has yet to even open in theaters. That doesn't happen until Thursday night.

It's made for a complicated release for the high-profile film, which got off to a triumphant start premiering at and then winning the top award from the Venice Film Festival. And while reviews are mostly positive, it's also been heavily scrutinized and put the filmmakers on the defensive. Director and co-writer Todd Phillips doesn't mind the discussion.

"I'll talk about it all day," he said. "I'm not shy about it."

He just wishes people would see the movie before drawing conclusions.

"It's a little troubling when people write think pieces without having seen it. And even in their think pieces write, 'I don't need to see it to know what it is.' I find it

astounding, to be quite frank, how easily the far left can sound like the far right when it suits their agenda," Phillips said. "To that point, I've been disappointed."

The pre-emptive backlash is all the more baffling to Phillips because he hopes it inspires conversations: About guns, about violence and about the treatment of people with mental illness.

"Part of the reason we made the movie is a response to the comic book world of movies," Phillips said. "Like, 'Why is this celebrated? Why is this funny? Why is this fun? What are the real world implications of violence?'"

The film itself is a slow-burn character study of how a mentally-ill, middle-aged man named Arthur Fleck becomes the Joker. When the audience drops in on his life, he's working as a clown-for-hire, living with his mother in a run-down Gotham apartment and checking in occasionally with a social worker. He has a card

that he gives to people to explain that his spontaneous and painful bursts of laughter are because of a medical condition. His only joy seems to be watching the talk show host Murray Franklin (Robert De Niro) in the evenings.

"The truth is you see it and it's heartbreaking. And he's heartbreaking," Phillips said. "And you know what happens in the movies when you have a world that lacks empathy and lacks love? You get the villain you deserve."

It's a role that has often required actors to go to difficult places, and "Joker" has the added complication of being more realistic than most of the other depictions even though it's still set in a fictional world. To play Arthur and Joker, Phoenix researched a number of people that he's reluctant to even name.

"Some of the people I studied, I feel what they crave is attention and notoriety," he said. "I don't feel like they deserve any more of that."

He also underwent a drastic physical transformation, los-

ing 52 pounds on an extremely calorie-restricted diet with the supervision of a doctor. He expected "feelings of dissatisfaction, hunger, a certain kind of vulnerability and a weakness." Instead, he found the emaciation led to a physical "fluidity" that he didn't quite anticipate.

The set was also fairly fluid in a way, and Phoenix said he and Phillips were constantly discovering new elements to Joker and Arthur.

"There seemed to be an infinite number of ways to interpret every moment or how he might behave in any moment. And there wasn't anything that didn't make sense. So we would do scenes so many different ways and some I would cry and others I would make jokes and others I would be angry and it would be the same scene and they all (expletive) made sense," he said.

It made the experience constantly "exciting" and "surprising," but portraying Arthur/Joker also proved to be "messy and uncomfortable"

for the 44-year-old actor.

As for whether or not audiences will use the character as an inspiration or excuse to act out, Phoenix thinks that the onus is on the individual.

"I do think that the audience should be challenged and they should be able to know the difference between right and wrong. I don't think it's the filmmaker's responsibility to teach morality," Phoenix said. "If you don't know the difference between right and wrong, then there are all sorts of things that you are going to interpret in the way that you want."

Both he and Phillips make sure to stress that "Joker," which is rated R, is not a kids' movie. It also won't be for everyone.

"I just hope people see it and take it as a movie," Phillips said. "Do I hope everyone loves it? No. We didn't make the movie for everyone. Anytime anyone tries to make a movie for everyone it's usually for nobody...You have a choice. Don't see it is the other choice. It's ok."

Review: Eddie Murphy shines in vulgar, heartfelt 'Dolemite'

For the amount of cursing, vulgarity and nudity in "Dolemite Is My Name," it might come as a surprise that it's actually a rather sweet and heartfelt film. "Dolemite" is not here to shock and scandalize. It's simply a loving, R-rated portrait of Rudy Ray Moore, a nobody who had the guts to believe in himself when no one else did, featuring a killer comeback Eddie Murphy performance.

The self-proclaimed "God-father of rap," Moore was an

Army veteran, standup comedian, musician and born performer who in the 1970s came to niche prominence for his rhythmic and raunchy Dolemite act. That character would beget both standup albums and the 1975 Blaxploitation film "Dolemite," a low-budget production (reports say it cost around \$100,000 to make) that made some \$10 million at the box office.

But it's almost irrelevant whether you know Moore's name well, and how he in-

spired the likes of Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, or are learning about him for the first time: "Dolemite Is My Name" is just a good piece of entertainment. And it's the kind of film that will help his legacy live on (Moore died in 2008 at age 81). It makes sense that the script comes by way of screenwriters Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, who did something similar for the cult filmmaker Ed Wood.

Directed by Craig Brewer ("Hustle & Flow"), "Dolemite Is My Name" transports you to Moore's 1970s Los Angeles, thanks to Ruth E. Carter's evocative costumes and Clay Griffith's production design. There's nothing terribly interesting about the way it's told, it's just a straightforward underdog story with a big beating heart.

Murphy plays Moore with a wide-eyed eagerness we typically only see on screen in much younger characters. He's constantly told no or to stay in his lane. Even his friends (Craig Robinson, Mike Epps and Tituss Burgess among them) look at him with that kind of half-pitying/half-supportive smile that will leave the audience wondering if this is just a big dreamer who might not actually make it.

But he has an eye for talent and at a low point borrows some material from a local homeless man about a larger-than-life character named Dolemite, and, finally he's got people's attention. But there are still many, many no's he'll have to overcome to get an album made and then released. And we haven't even gotten to

the cult classic movie yet.

While it's a joy spending time with Moore as he ascends in the comedy world, the film really kicks into gear when he gets the idea to make a film one night after he and his buddies decide to see a movie—something funny—and are left scratching their heads at a packed showing of Billy Wilder's 1974 remake of "The Front Page" with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, wondering what the appeal is.

So they decide to make something that they want to see (kung-fu, nudity and action are a few of the requirements). Moore scrapes together money, friends, acquaintances, some strangers (a playwright played by Keegan-Michael Key, and actor D'Urville Martin, played by Wesley Snipes) and a few film school students

and sets off to make a feature. The only problem? None of them really know how to make a movie. But they do their best which is often funny and always endearing.

Aside from Murphy, who eases back into stardom seamlessly, the other standout performance comes from Da'Vine Joy Randolph, a Tony-nominated stage actress who bursts off the screen as comedian Lady Reed. Moore "discovers" her one night on tour as someone with presence.

"Some people walk around with their own personal spotlight," Murphy's Moore tells her. The same could be said of Randolph, or Moore himself and it's a lovely thing to have a very good film like "Dolemite Is My Name" to show off both.



Paige Butcher, left, and Eddie Murphy attend the LA premiere of "Dolemite Is My Name" at the Regency Village Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Wesley Snipes says he's moving on from 'Blade' character

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The news that another actor was cast as vampire hunter Blade came as a surprise to Wesley Snipes, who portrayed the character in three successful films, but he says he's moving on.

Marvel Studios announced at this summer's Comic-Con that the Oscar winner Mahershala Ali would play the comics character in its blockbuster cinematic universe.

Snipes' last turn in the role was 2004's "Blade: Trinity."

"People are very, very sneaky. They try to make it about the actors. And it's not about me and him," Snipes told The Associated Press in an interview. "Flattery—what do they say? Imitation is the best form of flattery. Yeah. So you know, it's something that he has acknowledged he

wanted to do, and his family wanted him to do it. So I'm appreciative of getting the love. And I've created something that others want to carry on, and maybe put their own stamp on it."

Snipes, who trained in martial arts, is working on a different action-focused project.

"So we did that (Blade). That's all great. But we got something else that we going to rock," Snipes said. "So all of that stuff that you saw in the 'Blade' franchise, we got something that's going to come out that I think people will be pleasantly, pleasantly pleased."

Snipes spoke to The Associated Press while promoting "Dolemite Is My Name," which opens Oct. 4. He plays the director and co-star of



This Sept. 28, 2019 file photo shows Wesley Snipes at the LA premiere of "Dolemite Is My Name" in Los Angeles.

"Dolemite" in the Netflix movie about filmmaker Rudy Ray Moore and his creation of the 1975 Blaxploitation classic. Eddie Murphy por-

trays Moore.

"As an artist, I don't stay in one spot," Snipes said. "I'm constantly pushing the envelope of my creativity."

Granddaughter knows truth about 'wonderful father'

DEAR ABBY: When I was 11, my parents and I moved near my grandparents. I loved them very much. One day, my grandfather offered to take me for a ride around the countryside, and we jumped in his pickup truck to explore.

When we started our ride, he had me move over as close as I could to him. Then he popped open a beer and handed it to me to drink. I had never tasted beer before. As we traveled down the road, he slipped his hand under my shirt and proceeded to feel my breasts. This happened three or four times on different days. He then tried to move his hand down into my pants. I resisted. After that, I never went for a ride with him again.

I have been through therapy to deal with this, but I have been unable to move on. My mom and her sisters think he was a wonderful father. She and two of her sisters have always had problems with men. I have always suspected that he abused them also. Should I confront them about this or just let it go? It haunts me to this day.

PAST BUT PRESENT IN FLORIDA

DEAR PAST: I do not think it would be appropriate to "confront" your mother and your aunts about what might have happened to them. I do, however, think you have every right to tell them what your grandfather did to you during those "joyrides." If your suspicions about them are

true, you should never have been permitted to go with him.

When you talk to them, do not be surprised if they try to minimize what happened, but you may find it therapeutic to speak openly. Family secrets like this are unhealthy for everyone.

DEAR ABBY: I have some friends—a married couple—who are very dear to me but who drain me emotionally. The husband has been disabled for well over a decade. Although they have a home care nurse, the wife is his primary caregiver.

I know their situation is horrible, and I have offered my help only to be refused. They won't let anyone help, yet the wife is always complaining that she has no help. The husband is very angry and nasty to her, and her behavior has become passive-aggressive toward him.

The only conversations we have anymore are about how horribly they are treated by the other one. It's like they're competing to see who is the bigger victim. The wife calls when she needs to vent, but vetoes any suggestions. We have a long history together, but it has reached the point where I dread talking to them. I hate to withdraw, but I am emotionally drained. What should I do?

EXHAUSTED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR EXHAUSTED: It's time to tell these unhappy people what you told me. They may not like hearing what you have to say, so be prepared.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Suggest the wife join a caregiver support group. The other members will relate to what has been happening and may be able to offer her some suggestions. The husband is angry because his life hasn't turned out the way he had planned, but that doesn't mean he has a right to abuse her. A licensed marriage and family therapist might be able to help them repair their damaged relationship if it isn't too late.

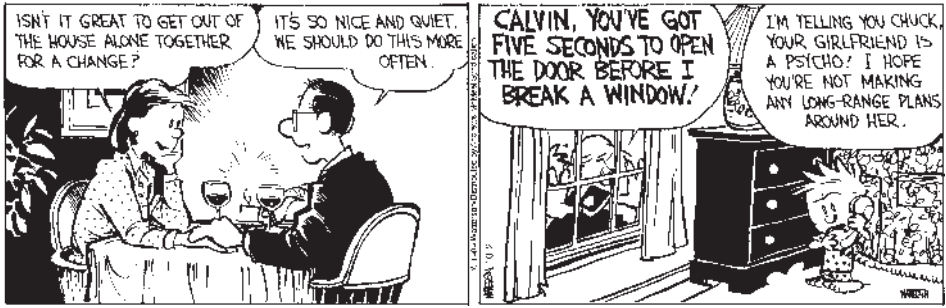
And while you're at it, tell them that unless they stop dragging you into their dysfunction, for the sake of your own mental health you will have to have less to do with them. It's the truth.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



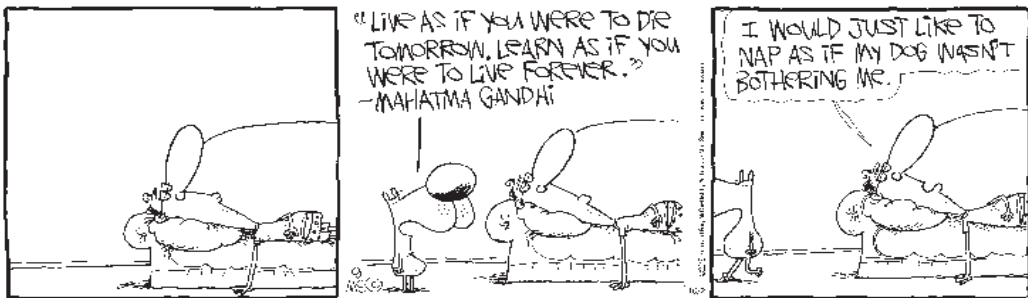
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

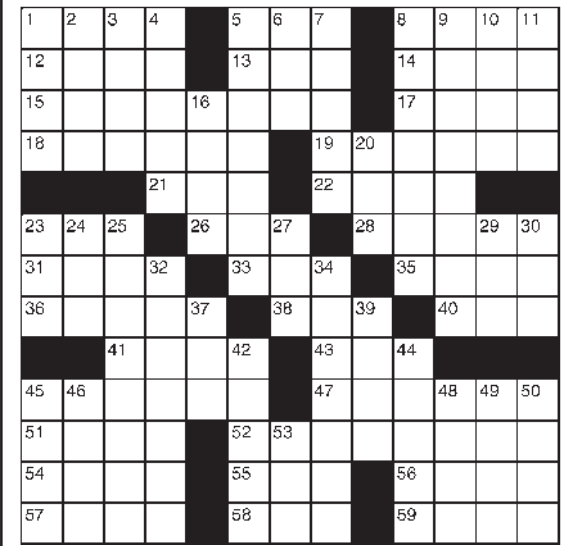
ACROSS 1 Young dogs 5 "Keep it down!" 8 "— boy!" 12 Redact 13 Romance 14 Joel or Ethan of Holly-wood 15 Some pledge drive gifts 17 IRS agent 18 En-trapped 19 OK to eat 21 Homer's neighbor 22 Couturier Christian 23 Feed-bag bit 26 Aviate 28 Pesky insects 31 Book after Joel 33 Ages and ages 35 Mt. Rush-more's state 36 Not as many

38 Central point 40 Verily 41 Proscribes 43 Speck 45 Candle holder 47 Apple music service 51 Computer debut of 1998 52 Drink quickly 54 Flying toy 55 Bankbook abbr. 56 Needing liniment 57 Radiator sound 58 Refusals 59 — gin fizz

DOWN 1 Favorites 2 Japanese noodle 3 Pocket bread 4 Ship's rear 5 Wrap 6 Glutton 7 Swindled 8 Deeds 9 Famed Patriots quarter-back 10 Blue shade 11 Novelist Rice 16 Complaint 20 Use a shovel 23 Klutz 24 Soul, to Camus 25 Powerful harbor vessels 27 Thither 29 — kwon do 30 Reggae relative 32 Spirited meetings? 34 Some beach-goers 37 GOP org. 39 Automations, for short 42 Become estab-lished 44 Big brass 45 Punjabi believer 46 Roman 902 48 Salt formula 49 Rever-berate 50 Terrier type 53 Yoko of music

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Ripa, 49; Sting, 68; Annie Leibovitz, 70; Donna Karan, 71.

Happy Birthday: Look at the long-distance outcome, not what's going on at the moment. Having an open mind and an idea of the possibilities will make it easier for you to put everything in place. Take the time to plan properly and to execute what you want to happen with precision, detail and the understanding that the greater the effort, the better the outcome. Your numbers are 8, 14, 18, 29, 34, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Live in the moment. Experience what life has to offer. Look for good deals and people to share with. Make today a good memory, and fill your day with activities and people that are good for you mentally, emotionally and physically.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be addicted to change right now, but you'd be wise to keep whatever you apply to your life simple and clear of debt. Focus more on long-term benefits and signing up for something that promotes peace of mind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be drawn to people who are exciting and adventuresome, but also those who will take advantage of you and lead you into tempting situations. Know enough to put your health and well-being first. Romance is highlighted, but discretion must be maintained.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't trust anyone who is overly friendly or asks too many personal questions. Put your ener-

gy to good use, and make changes that are going to make a positive difference in your life. Trust your intuition.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your emotions out of meaningful discussions. Use your knowledge, experience and intelligence to fight for what you want. Look at the big picture, and pick and choose what you like best based on what fits well with your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Change takes effort. Don't stop and look back when you should be looking forward. Doing the work yourself using discipline and determination will far exceed what you accomplish trying to get others to do the work for you.

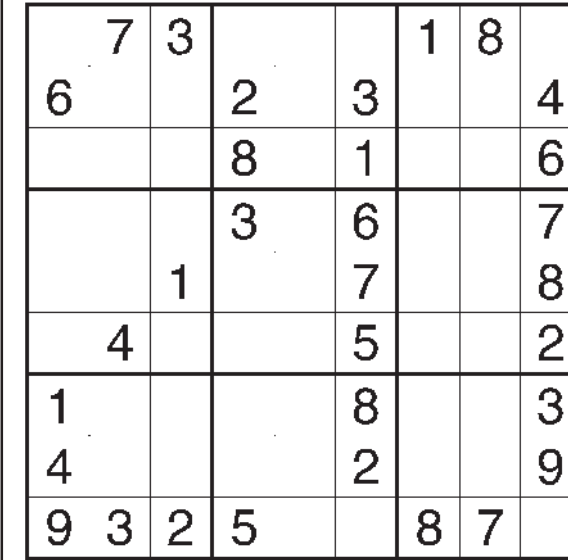
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look for a peaceful way to spend your day. Refuse to get tangled up in someone else's melodrama. Arguments will not be worth the mental frustration or the cost involved. Say no to joint ventures and pushy people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Observation will give insight into what others are going to do next. Being prepared for whatever comes your way will provide you with the edge you need to bring about positive personal change and to help others adjust.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let anger cast a shadow on what needs to be done. Dismiss the past, and head into the future with a clean slate. Surround yourself with people who share your concerns and values. Personal improvements will enhance meaningful relationships.

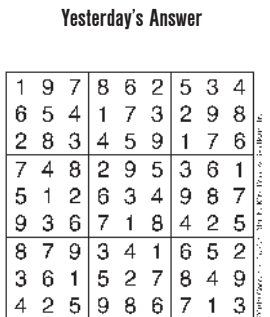
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/02 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★★ 10/02 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep busy, and make the most of your day. What you accomplish will be what counts, so don't waste time on petty situations or temptations that will get you into trouble. Change begins within. Do and be your best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Mull over what you've accomplished and what you still have to do. Make sure you have all your paperwork in order and know exactly what and who you are up against before you proceed. Preparation will be what counts moving forward.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put what's going on around you in perspective. Refuse to let an emotional incident take precedence over what needs to be done. Stick to tried and true methods and people you know you can count on to eliminate risk and meddling.

Birthday Baby: You are easygoing, peaceful and accommodating. You are curious and intelligent.

Visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TYPES OF MESSAGES Solution: 10 letters

L M T R E T S L O B C R E A M
Y A E S E L R O O L F A P S E
I S N L I D R D B E N D D H D
N S B O B P Y I M E E N S I I
G A S E I O A E A F A E T A C
T G T S T S W R B H U C O T A
N E R E M P R S S E S C I N S L
E U E M P A A E S H T V K U E
M Q S R E G N I F W T E R S W
T I S U I S T U N O E D E T O
A N A B K Y D I A E R D L A T
E H F N P N A T S L D P I W I
R C E E I P I M P R O V E S A
T E S M R A E R O F S O F T H
S T E E F U E S R E G G I R T

©2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc. www.wonderword.com 10/2
Bamboo, Bend, Body, Bolster, Burmese, Chair, Cream, Device, Elbows, Feel, Feet, Fingers, Floor, Forearms, Hands, Improve, Knees, Knots, Lying, Manual, Massage, Medical, Mind, Oils, Pain, Professional, Relief, RMT, Safe, Shiatsu, Soft, Spa, Stress, Swedish, Table, Technique, Thai, Therapist, Tissues, Towel, Trained, Treatment, Triggers, Types, Watsu
Yesterday's Answer: Chiropractic
Treasures 13 through 18 and 20 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANY ANNOUNCEMENT

L.C. Construction is looking for:
3 General Maintenance
and Repair Worker
Rate: \$8.11/hr - \$8.33/hr.
High School graduate with at least 2 years
experience. Must be able to work flexible
hours. With valid driver's license.
If interested, send resume to
lccconstruction48@gmail.com or mail
to P.O. Box 10001
PMB A-26, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WINSOCK POWER, LLC
1 Maintenance & Repair
Workers, General
\$8.33 per hr.

Interested applicants,
pls call 234-6001
jamesrthomas67@hotmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) **Landscaping & Groundskeeping
Worker** \$7.51 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40
hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Landscape or maintain grounds of property using
hand or power tools or equipment. Performs
variety of tasks including sod laying, mowing,
trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging,
raking and other related duties.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 3 months experience is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at
usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office
address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane,
Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from
8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For
more information the position can be obtained
from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement
on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an
Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

FIFTEEN (15) **Molding & Casting Worker** \$7.63
per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week,
Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform duties such as mixing materials,
assembling mold parts, filling molds, and
stacking molds to mold and cast products and
working with concrete, wood and steel to build
productions molds/forms.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 1 year experience is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at
usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office
address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane,
Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from
8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For
more information the position can be obtained
from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement
on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an
Equal Employment Opportunity employer

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **HVAC Specialist** 8.08 to 8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install, service, or repair heating and air conditioning systems in
residences or commercial establishments. Test pipe or tubing joints
or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and-water
solution. Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using
electrical test equipment. Repair or replace defective equipment,
components, or wiring. Discuss the heating or cooling system
malfunctions with users to isolate problems or to verify that repairs
corrected malfunctions. Repair or service heating, ventilating, and
air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve efficiency, such as by
changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• Associate's Graduate;
• At least 12 months experience;
• Must have knowledge of machines and tools, including their
designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.

All interested applicants can submit resume at
anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK,
Tin Koshi Kuleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @
(670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to
Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from
the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site
– marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT


(02) **Quality Control Technician** - \$9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for
the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily
clerical by nature. Includes workers who collect and keep record of
samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type,
weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to
maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files.
Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain
relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers.
Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels
and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts,
subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages,
using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal
or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate;
• At least 12 months experience;
• Must have knowledge in using measuring tools, such as scales
and calipers

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com
or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Koshi Kuleman
Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00
AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position
can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on
the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2019

Opening date: September 30, 2019 Closing date: October 18, 2019

Positions: (1) Electrician (Saipan)
(1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Secretary/Tariff Technician-I (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required
diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police
record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of
Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and
other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all
male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his
registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and
required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd
Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA
Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan
Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents
will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written
and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug
screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d)
Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to
meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required
documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International
Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00
P.M. on Friday, October 18, 2019.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above
positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday,
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd
Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or
CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan
Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA
Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or
hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally
entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to inform the general public that Vision
Developes Corp. will be dissolved effective October
18, 2019. All claims against the company must be
filed on or before October 18th after which, all
remaining equity will be distributed to the
stockholders.

Vision Developes Corporation
P.O. Box 7820 SVRB,
Saipan, MP 96950

/s/ The Management

PLACE YOUR
ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at 235-6397



Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING
MEANS
MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: Puppy fat

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

• 3-Liner

• 5-Liner

\$15

\$24

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

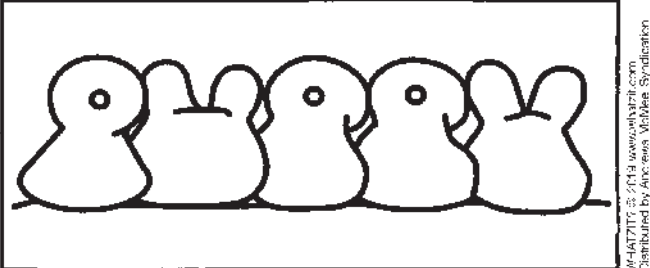
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or
name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

New LA coach claims Lakers got best duo



LOS ANGELES—The NBA has changed.

Gone are the not-so-distant days of the Big 3. In are the days of having a duo, a superstar duo that can help lead a team to the league's promised land.

And plenty of teams are in that mix. The Clippers now have Kawhi Leonard and Paul George. The Rockets added Russell Westbrook to James Harden. The Nets made a splash in free agency, picking up Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant. And the Lakers added big man Anthony Davis to join LeBron James in Los Angeles.

But which duo is best? Lakers coach Frank Vogel has no doubt.

"We got the best of them, of all the duos," Vogel said. "We have two top-five players, two guys that really just do it all. And I'd put those two guys against anybody in the league."

And so the Lakers have made James' and Davis' on-court chemistry their training-camp priority.

"I do want to have LeBron and AD play as much together as possible in practice because they're going to be the ones who play the most together throughout the season," Vogel said. "So I want to get that chemistry accelerated as much as possible. But the guys around them are going to change every practice."

Vogel has done this for a few reasons. Lakers third-year forward Kyle Kuzma remains



AP
Los Angeles Lakers forwards LeBron James, left, and Anthony Davis, right, pose for photos during the NBA basketball team's media day in El Segundo, Calif., Friday, Sept. 27, 2019.

confined to non-contact drills because of a stress fracture in his left foot stemming from Team USA practice in the FIBA World Cup. Kuzma will stay sidelined at least for the next two weeks.

Vogel also appears open-minded on who else will start along with James and Davis in hopes to build the team's depth. Though James will assume ball-handling duties as he often has done through

his 16-year NBA career, Vogel plans to pair veteran point guard Rajon Rondo with Davis after the two played in 2017-18 in New Orleans.

"The sky is the limit for those two as far as the chemistry and the dynamic they can play the game," Rondo said of James and Davis. "There are mismatches they can cause on the other end of the floor with other teams. You'll probably put your best player on LeB-

ron James. But who's next to guard AD?"

That story line appears less likely to play out during training camp. Vogel admitted to reporters following Sunday's practice, "I don't plan to play LeBron a ton" in six exhibition games. After all, the 34-year-old James enters his 17th season after missing a combined 27 games last season because of a strained left groin. The Lakers also have a week-long

trip in China with a pair of preseason games against the Brooklyn Nets in Shanghai (Oct. 10) and Shenzhen (Oct. 12). Hence, James and Anthony will instead scrimmage together frequently during preseason practices.

"We spent a lot of time together in the offseason, but this is probably one of two times we spent together on the floor," Davis said following Saturday's practice. "Our

chemistry is very important because it starts with us. Then, for the other guys around us, we're trying to get those guys to buy in and fit in as well to make everything work.

Meanwhile, James had a front-row seat as California governor Gavin Newsom signed CA-SB206 into state law, which will go into effect in 2023 and gives college athletes the right to profit off their name and likeness.

NEW YORK—USA Basketball had a tough summer.

The outlook for 2020 is already much brighter.

Plenty of NBA standouts—elite names like Stephen Curry, James Harden, LeBron James, Kawhi Leonard, Damian Lillard, Anthony Davis, Draymond Green and Paul George among them—are clearly intrigued by the notion of winning Olympic gold in Tokyo next summer. And that's thrilling to USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo, who wasn't pleased by some players backing out of commitments and the Americans ultimately finishing only seventh at this summer's World Cup.

"In some ways, it's what I expected—because I really, truly believed that the reason so many did not play this summer was because of the back-to-back competitions and FIBA moving the World Cup to a year before the Olympics," Colangelo said Monday. "You might have even projected it would work out that way. Obviously, what they're say-

Many NBA players considering 2020 Olympics

ing right now is appreciated."

The Associated Press conducted an informal survey of possible U.S. Olympic candidates at their team media days, and of those approached none said they were not interested in playing in the Tokyo Games. Some issued stronger statements of interest than others, but playing for gold is clearly on the minds of many. Jimmy Butler, Klay Thompson and Andre Drummond all affirmed their interest at media days, as did plenty of others.

"Definitely, I want to be able to play USA Basketball next summer," Washington guard Bradley Beal said Monday. "I want to play in the Olympics. That was definitely a goal of mine. ... If the opportunity presents itself then sure, that's an automatic yes for me."

Curry, Thompson, Green and Lillard all openly expressed their interest in various interviews after the World Cup. At media days since, James, George, Leonard, Drummond,

Harden, Aaron Gordon, Russell Westbrook and Devin Booker were among those who said they may want to play—health-permitting.

"I'm actually kind of planning my wedding around it," Green said Monday at Warriors media day. "So hopefully I make the team."

Gordon said his interest "goes without saying." And James wants to have a conversation with U.S. coach Gregg Popovich about the plan for 2020.

"We'll see how I can do throughout this season, and I will address that at some point, and hopefully have an opportunity to have a conversation with Coach Pop and see what his direction is going forward with Team USA," James, a two-time gold medalist, replied when asked at Lakers media day last week if he may play in Tokyo. "But I will always bleed red, white and blue, that's for sure."

There is a clear wait-and-see approach by some players, and

obviously injuries or deep playoff runs would change some player availability. USA Basketball is expected to open its Olympic camp in early July, possibly two weeks or so after a potential Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

That's part of the reason why Colangelo and Popovich don't intend to start formally recruiting for at least a couple more months. For now, they're listening—and liking what they hear.

"I would love to play in the Olympics," Drummond said at Detroit media day Monday. "Who wouldn't want to play in the Olympics? That's definitely a big, big-time thing to be a part of. I've been part of USA Basketball for a long time. ... Playing for that gold medal is huge, so I would be very honored to play for them."

There were many reasons why some players wouldn't or couldn't play this summer. Davis changed teams and wanted time to acclimate to the Lakers. Tobias Harris was deal-

ing with a foot injury and just signed a \$180 million contract with Philadelphia. James was filming a movie. Thompson and Kevin Durant—another potential 2020 candidate—got hurt in the NBA Finals.

"Representing your country, playing in the Olympics, all those things have been dreams of mine," Booker said at Phoenix's media day Monday. "So hopefully if I ever get the opportunity, I'd take full advantage of it. ... Representing the country with USA basketball is one of the most prestigious things you can do."

USA Basketball cycled through more than 50 candidates before settling on a 12-player roster for this summer's World Cup, and only had to cut two players along the way. Everyone else pulled out for schedule or injury reasons.

The expectation is that competition for the 12 Olympic spots will be more heated.

"As long as I'm healthy," George said at Clippers media

day. "When I get to that point and I'm healthy, I'm in. I want to be a part of that group."

So do some of the players who were on this World Cup team—Sacramento's Harrison Barnes, Milwaukee's Khris Middleton, Boston's Kemba Walker, Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, Brooklyn's Joe Harris and Utah's Donovan Mitchell are among those who said if Colangelo or Popovich call them again, they'll be ready to play.

"No matter what the results were this summer, if I ever get the opportunity to represent my country, I will," Middleton said.

The U.S. is bidding for a fourth straight Olympic gold medal next summer. If the Americans pull it off, it would be their longest run of consecutive Olympic golds since winning the inaugural seven tournaments from 1936 through 1968.

July 2020 is a long way away, but there's clear reason for hope.

"It's great to see that the response is what it is," Colangelo said.

Scherzer, Nats open playoffs vs Brewers



WASHINGTON

(AP)—Max Scherzer throws the first pitch of this year's playoffs when Washington takes on the Milwaukee Brewers in the NL wild-card game at Nationals Park (8:08 p.m. EDT).

Since a 2013 AL Division Series victory for Detroit, Scherzer has made seven postseason appearances, in a mix of starting and relieving roles, and his teams are 0-7. Scherzer himself is 0-4 in that stretch, lowering his career record in the postseason from 4-1 to 4-5.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner was 11-7 with a 2.92 ERA was slowed by back trouble this season. The Nats will have Stephen Strasburg (18-6, 3.32) ready in the bullpen.

Brandon Woodruff (11-3, 3.62) will start for the Brewers. He has pitched in only two games since returning from a strained left oblique that sidelined him for nearly two full months; he went two hitless innings each time.

The Nationals are 0-3 in winner-take-all postseason games, all at home. They've never advanced in four previous trips to the playoffs over the past eight years.

The Brewers made it to Game 7 of the NL Championship Series last year before falling to the Dodgers. Milwaukee surged to the playoffs this September despite losing NL MVP Christian Yelich to a broken kneecap.

Milwaukee outfielders Ryan Braun and Lorenzo Cain each missed time in the last week with ailments. Braun expects to play; there's no decision yet on Cain.

All-Star offered more than \$200M

All-Star third baseman Anthony Rendon is likely to be one of the most coveted free agents this offseason. The Nationals are trying to make sure he doesn't leave.

According to a report, the club recently offered Rendon a seven-year contract worth \$210 million to \$215 million. However, it's not expected to keep the NL MVP candidate from testing the free agent waters when the



season ends.

Rendon hasn't been very vocal about his future, but he has indicated he plans to solicit offers from other teams, in addition to the Nationals, this offseason. He is represented by agent Scott Boras, who also counts former Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper and current Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg among his clients.

Rendon will become a free agent after having the best season of his seven-year career. He hit .319 with 34 home runs and led the majors with 126 RBI.

Wrigley wrangling

The field of candidates to be the next manager of the Cubs is beginning to take shape. President of baseball operations Theo Epstein says former catcher David Ross is on the broad list being assembled by the front office. He also said he wants to talk to at least one member of the coaching staff about the job, and at least one other candidate is working for a team in the playoffs.

"We're full speed ahead," Epstein said.

The Cubs announced Sunday that manager Joe Maddon will not be

back next year. His contract expired after they missed the playoffs for the first time since 2014.

The 42-year-old Ross played on the 2016 Cubs team that won the World Series. He serves as a special assistant in the team's baseball operations department, and also works for ESPN.

"I think it's one of the best jobs in baseball," Ross said on the network Sunday. "I've got a lot of close ties with those guys. I think the interest would be there. I think my heart is drawn to that dugout a little bit."

AP
Max Scherzer will start for the Washington Nationals, as they take on the Milwaukee Brewers in the NL wild-card game at Nationals Park.

Maddon to Angels?

The Angels need a new skipper, and old friend Maddon might be a fit. The dismissal of Brad Ausmus on Monday immediately sparked speculation that Maddon, a former Angels bench coach who parted ways with the Cubs one day earlier, could return to the franchise where he spent three decades of his career. The 65-year-old Maddon was a catcher, minor league manager and major league assistant with the Halos, and he has a cordial relationship with owner Arte Moreno. Rumors began to swirl about Ausmus' job security last week while Maddon's future was being debated in Chicago. The Cubs' only World Series-winning manager of the past century decided to leave the club by mutual agreement over the weekend.

Work it out

The Rays and A's will loosen up at the Coliseum, a day before they meet in the AL wild-card game Wednesday (8:09 p.m. EDT). The winner takes on the Astros, beginning Friday at Houston.

Charlie Morton (16-6, 3.05 ERA) pitches for Tampa Bay. He was 1-0 in two starts vs. Oakland this year, allowing one earned run in 13 1/3 innings and striking out 15. The 35-year-old is in his first season with the Rays — in 2017 with the Astros, he was the winning pitcher as a starter in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series against the Yankees and he won Game 7 of the World Series in relief against the Dodgers.

The A's have not yet announced a starter. They went with an opener — a strategy pioneered by the Rays — in the wild-card game at Yankee Stadium last year and it didn't work out too well. Liam Hendriks gave up a first-inning homer to Aaron Judge and New York won 7-2.

The Athletics went 4-3 against the Rays this year, with all the games in June.

BOSTON (AP)—Getting under baseball's luxury tax threshold next year "is a goal, but not a hard-and-fast mandate," Boston Red Sox team president Sam Kennedy said Monday, a day after the defending World Series champions finished the season out of the playoffs for the first time since 2015.

Three days after owner John Henry said "we need to be under" the competitive balance tax, Kennedy said that is merely a "guidepost for our budgeting" as the team tries to hold onto Mookie Betts and J.D. Martinez while cutting salary below the \$208 million CBT threshold.

Oh, and still improving the team enough to return to the postseason in 2020.

"We will continue to dem-

Eliminated Red Sox looking to rebuild

onstrate a willingness to go over the CBT," Kennedy said. "It is going to be a challenging offseason, but we are going to attack it."

The Red Sox followed their record-setting 108 wins and fourth World Series title since 2004 with an 84-78 season in which they were never really in contention. Erstwhile aces Chris Sale and David Price were shut down before the end of the year, and baseball boss Dave Dombrowski was fired.

Alex Cora, who seemed to do everything right as a rookie manager last year, pointed to two stretches where the team slumped: At the beginning of the year, when they started 2-8, and then during an eight-game

losing streak against the playoff-bound Rays and Yankees.

"We didn't take anything for granted," Cora said. "We just didn't play well."

After firing Dave Dombrowski earlier this month, the Red Sox are being run by a "Gang of Four" that includes assistant general managers Brian O'Halloran, Eddie Romero and Zack Scott and senior vice president Raquel Ferreira.

"They're taking action, they're not waiting," Kennedy said.

And all they need to do is figure out a way to keep Betts, the 2018 AL MVP, who earned \$20 million last year and is eligible for a big raise in arbitra-

tion. So far, he has rejected offers for a long-term extension and is eligible to become a free agent after the 2020 season, leading to speculation the team could trade him.

Martinez has three years and \$62.45 million remaining on his contract, but he can opt out five days after the World Series. In his two seasons in Boston, he has averaged 40 homers, 35 doubles, 118 RBIs and a .317 batting average.

"Those guys were huge," Romero said. "Those are foundation pieces in the locker room and we're so thankful for what they've done for us."

First up is finding someone to run baseball operations. Asked about reports the

team might pursue former general manager Theo Epstein, now with the Cubs, Kennedy said, "We're not ruling anything out."

Epstein helped the Red Sox end their 86-year championship drought in 2004 before moving on to the Cubs and guiding them to their first World Series title in 108 years. But, just as the Red Sox did in 2011, Chicago went through a September collapse and fired the manager—in this case, Joe Maddon—that ended the decades of fan suffering.

"Theo said his focus is on the Cubs and we haven't requested permission," Kennedy said. "We just haven't ruled anything out. It's too early."

Complicating matters is the tax threshold, which goes up to \$208 million next year. The Red Sox payroll totaled \$243 million in 2019—the highest in baseball for the second straight year—and if they exceed the threshold for a third straight year they would pay a tax of 50% or more on every dollar above it.

They will save more than \$56 million with the expected departures of Rick Porcello, Mitch Moreland, Steve Pearce and Eduardo Núñez and the end of the team's obligation to Pablo Sandoval.

The team said it's possible to still keep Betts and Martinez.

"It's a challenge, it's a challenge," O'Halloran said. "The two players are incredible players that we hope are on the team in 2020 and beyond."

Steelers break out of funk, stomp Bengals



PITTSBURGH
(A P) — The Pittsburgh Steelers insisted they might have been

winless through three weeks, but they were far from hopeless. They stressed the process of finding an identity with franchise quarterback Ben Roethlisberger out for the season with an elbow injury would take time and a collective effort from all involved.

An effort that looked an awful lot like what they put together during a 27-3 pounding of Cincinnati on Monday night.

Mason Rudolph threw for 229 yards and two scores. Running back, part-time wide receiver and occasional wildcat quarterback Jaylen Samuels accounted for 134 yards of total offense and a 2-yard touchdown run. James Conner emerged from an early funk to run for 42 yards and catch eight passes for 83 yards and a score. The defense sacked Andy Dalton eight times and held the Bengals scoreless over the final 51 minutes.

It wasn't perfect. But it was a start. One that helped the Steelers (1-3) avoid their second 0-4 start in 51 years and reaffirmed their belief that they can find a way forward without Roethlisberger.

"It's huge," Samuels said. "Coming in 0-3 and coming back, getting a divisional game, that's huge. We've just got to build off this game."

With Pittsburgh's running game going nowhere through three weeks, running backs coach Eddie Faulkner suggested to offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner that it might be time to dust off the wildcat. Samuels ran it frequently during his college career at N.C. State, and the Bengals (0-4) certainly looked caught off guard when Samuels lined up in the shotgun and started distributing the ball like a point guard. Sometimes he'd hand it off to Conner. Others he'd "throw" a "pop" pass to a teammate running in motion in front of him. Still others he opted to keep it himself, including on his third-quarter touchdown in which he strolled into the end zone after the Bengals bit on a fake handoff.

"We knew if we could get a lot of guys going sideways, it was going to mess them up a little bit so that's what we did," Samuels said. "It was working. ... We were picking up five, six yards every play. They couldn't stop it."

Samuels ran for 26 yards on 10 carries, caught eight passes for 57 more and was credited with three completions for 31 yards. Conner had 14 touches for 125 yards in all, including a 21-yard sprint through the Cincinnati defense in the



AP
Pittsburgh Steelers running back James Conner (30) is tackled by Cincinnati Bengals free safety Jessie Bates (30) during the second half of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Monday, Sept. 30, 2019.

second quarter that gave the Steelers a lead they never came close to squandering while beating the Bengals for the ninth straight time.

Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor became the second first-year coach to drop his first four games with the Bengals. Sam Wyche started 0-5 in 1984 but helped his team rebound to an 8-8 finish. Taylor's task of getting Cincinnati back to respectability will be far harder if he can't figure out a way to protect Dalton.

"To be quite honest, it starts with me," Taylor said. "I've

got to make sure the standard is higher than what it is right now, because I haven't done a good enough job."

The eight sacks Dalton endured were a career-high for the nine-year veteran, who also threw an end zone interception in the fourth quarter and was strip-sacked by Pittsburgh's outside linebacker Bud Dupree in the second quarter. T.J. Watt fell on the ball and the Steelers were off and running. Dalton finished 21 of 37 for 171 yards, stressing he felt "fine" physically and that he's not panicking.

"Everybody is going to stick together," Dalton said. "We have from the beginning, regardless of the circumstances of these games, we've stuck together. And so I don't expect that to change."

Tyler Boyd, elevated to the No. 1 receiver while A.J. Green recovers from ankle surgery, was held to three receptions for 33 yards on the same field where he starred in college at Pitt.

"Personally I hate being embarrassed," Boyd said. "At the end of the day, I can take the losing. But when you go out there

and get embarrassed, Monday night, prime time. I got too much pride to go out there and showcase what we showcased. It was just awful overall."

Rudolph was uneven at best in his first career start last week in San Francisco after being thrust into the gig for the rest of the season while Roethlisberger rehabs from elbow surgery. Rudolph was considerably sharper against Cincinnati, though he wasn't asked to do much other than find the closest open man —usually Conner or Samuels—and keep the sticks moving. He

completed 24 of 28 passes, the only deep shot a 43-yard strike to Diontae Johnson in the third quarter that broke it open.

"Our message all week was stack one (win) and then start stacking more," said Rudolph, who was awarded the game ball by head coach Mike Tomlin.

Meanwhile, John Ross III left in the third quarter with a right-shoulder injury. Cordy Glenn missed his fourth straight game while recovering from a concussion and Cincinnati's protection problems continued. The Bengals have now surrendered 19 sacks through four games.

Browns coach: Choke of OBJ doesn't belong in NFL game

CLEVELAND (AP)— Browns coach Freddie Kitchens has Odell Beckham's back. He's more worried about the NFL protecting the star's neck.

Kitchens said Monday that he wishes the league's officials were more consistent calling penalties in the aftermath of Beckham being choked by Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey during Cleveland's 40-25 win on Sunday.

Beckham got into a heated fight with Humphrey, who pinned the three-time Pro Bowler to the ground and had his hands around his throat before being pulled away.

Both players were assessed personal fouls, but neither was ejected. Kitchens felt Humphrey should have been thrown out, but Shawn Hochuli said the actions didn't rise to the level of a "disqualifying foul."

"Here's my big deal with

that: I just want to have consistency on how we're going to deal with things, OK?" Kitchens said during a conference call. "I don't like seeing our player on the field and someone's hands around his throat. I don't like that. I don't think that needs to be in our game and I would be the first to say that if it was our guy doing it."

"And I want everybody held to the same standard. That's all I want."

Following the game, Kitchens indicated he was going to call head of officiating Al Riveron before the Browns flew home from Baltimore. He changed his mind.

"It's against the rules to call before 9 a.m. I want to make it very clear that I did not call last night," Kitchens said. "But we're still in the process of talking through some things with that."

He didn't say if he had spoken with Riveron.

"I don't know what you get fined for and what you don't get fined for so I'm not going to even answer that," he said. "But I can promise you this: Hopefully I'll have a better understanding of what we want it to look like on game day."

Beckham, who has a history of scrapping with defenders, was blocking Humphrey when things got out of control. Humphrey overpowered Beckham and had him in a vulnerable position before others intervened.

Browns center JC Tretter ran to help Beckham and was also penalized on the play.

"I wouldn't change anything I did," Tretter said. "Seeing a teammate pinned down like that, I'm not just going to stand there and let that go on."

Kitchens said Hochuli explained the decision not to eject Humphrey and he credited the officials with not let-

ting things escalate.

"Shawn and those guys did an excellent job of maintaining control of the football game," he said. "They did do that. They did an excellent job of that. So my hat's off to them in that scenario, because that can get out of hand in a hurry. And I'll compliment our players on maintaining their composure in that situation. But again, one of their teammates was on the ground too, so we just need to decide what direction we want to go with that, you know?"

"I don't like seeing our guys on the ground getting choked."

Ravens coach John Harbaugh wasn't nearly as opinionated on the matter as Kitchens.

Harbaugh didn't condone Humphrey's behavior, but he didn't condemn it either.

"I don't know about an ejection," Harbaugh said. "I just try to focus on what I'm

going to say to our player, because you can't control the way the officials see it. I'm not exactly sure why (Humphrey) got the foul, but I'm sure they'll tell us what they thought they saw. Based on the close up that we have of the footage that we had, (Humphrey) pinned him on the ground after about three or four things happened. And I don't want to alleviate him from any responsibility, because we can't get flags in that situation."

"Marlon played a really good game on him; Beckham played a really good game, and it was a great battle between those two guys. Tempers flared right there. I just don't want the penalty. Marlon already understands that. He's a smart player. And that's the way I expect all of our guys to play. Let them get the penalties. We'll take the profit."

Triple J Motors renews partnership with NMIFA



The partnership that is instrumental to the success of the grassroots soccer program in the CNMI will continue, as Triple J Motors has renewed its ties with the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

Triple J Motors will still be the main sponsor of the NMIFA Youth League, which holds games in the spring and fall competitions for players in the U6 to U18 age groups and draws more than 1,000 participants every season. The company will also continue to provide transportation to NMIFA coaches, who visit schools to introduce the program to students and conduct other soccer-related activities.

"Triple J is extremely proud to continue our longstanding partnership with NMIFA," Triple J Motors senior vice president Jay Jones said. "This partnership reinforces Triple J's commitment to building strong communities and in this case enabling our youth to grow and excel in a world renowned sport. As a part of our commitment and dedication to the Triple J philosophy of 'customers first' in thought and action, Triple J Enterprises continues to strive for the improvement of quality of life and build strong communities at any capacity."

To mark Triple J Motors' commitment to NMIFA's grassroots program for the sixth straight year, the company's staff and officials visited the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville late last month and provided players with snacks and refreshments.

"We are extremely grateful to Triple J Motors for supporting a program that is very vital to the growth of soccer in the CNMI. Every year, we look for ways to strengthen



An MP United Football Club player kicks the ball, while a Shirley's Football Club goalie gets ready for a save during their game in the boys U15 division of the Triple J Motors-sponsored NMIFA Youth Fall League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

our program and reach out to as many youth as possible. We face many challenges along the way with the recent one, Typhoon Yutu, that damaged our facility and halted our games. However, with the support of generous companies like Triple J, we are able to stand back up and rebuild," NMIFA president Jerry Tan said.

NMIFA Youth Committee deputy chair Raymond Zapanta said that having partners in the community helps the association deliver a program that greatly benefits our youth. The NMIFA grassroots sports program has produced players that represented the CNMI to international competitions and provided students after-school activities that keep them active and off the streets. Players who took part in the program have also managed to gain athletics scholarships from

drilled the equalizer seven minutes later.

The game remained in a deadlock for several minutes until Fajardo's dagger in the 88th minute gave TanHoldings the win in its season debut.

ROUSING

From Page 28

Floyd Muna moved Old B Bank within one with his conversion in the 59th minute, while Michiteru Mita

BLACK

From Page 28

the Old Aces could not close out early, as Straight Outta Nowhere pulled off a 26-25 triumph. The Old Aces then regrouped and nipped Straight Outta Nowhere in the decider, 15-12. Versus the Iron Spike, the Old Aces was able to take the win after only two sets, 25-19, 25-23.

Meanwhile two more matches were played last week with Revengers battling Iron Spike and the Revengers squaring off against the

D'Challengers.

Iron Spike edged Revengers in the first set, 26-24 and finished the match with a 25-18 triumph in the second.

The D'Challengers also handed the Revengers defeat, but this time the match went to three sets. The D'Challengers hammered Revengers in the first set, 25-12, before the latter took the second, 25-17, to remain in contention. D'Challengers fought back in the third set for a close 17-15 win.

Meanwhile, games in the Avengers Volleyball League will resume today at 7pm.



Triple J Motors staff and officials put up a tent at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville to provide snacks and refreshment to players seeing action in the NMIFA Youth Fall League.

PSS basketball, volleyball games set

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will resume its interscholastic programs that were postponed last week due to the damaged gypsum board at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

PSS Student Support Services athletic program director Nick Gross said they are plan-

ning to officially start the PSS Girls Interscholastic Middle School Basketball League today, and resume the PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League tomorrow.

"We are planning on kicking off the girls middle school basketball season and resuming the girls high school volleyball season on Thursday. Fingers crossed," he said.

Caravan's Ken Viray (20), and MS Villagomez's Chioni Dela Cruz (18.7).

Santos had back-to-back 18-point game (versus Bridge Capital and Mystique), made 17 against AK, and 19 in their match versus IT&E. The Saipan Vegas gunner's season-high so far is 35 points, which he registered in their 97-68 triumph against Caravan's.

Jandoc, on the other hand, played in only three of Mystique's four games and had his highest production (30) against The Game late last month. Dela Cruz also has played only three games so far and had his best offen-

When asked about updates on the MHS Gym, Gross said that repairs to the gypsum boards are ongoing, but the facility has been deemed useable and safe.

"Work is ongoing, but yes we are planning to use MHS as the venue for both the middle school girls basketball as well as the high school girls volleyball," he said.

sive showing in their match opposite TanHoldings after posting 21 points. Viray missed one of Caravan's first five matches and scored at least 20 points in three games (20, 25, and 24) with his least output (11) logged in his season debut against Bridge Capital.

Meanwhile, Saipan Vegas' Douglas Schmidt and Alex Standish are the league leaders in assists and rebounds, respectively.

Standish averaged 13.4 rebounds per game, recording his most rebounds (20) in their 112-55 demolition of Aqua Resort Club. The big

universities and moved up to collegiate ranks.

"Seeing kids outdoor playing and enjoying the game while discovering and honing their soccer skills and building their character through competitions and interactions with each other gives us all the right reasons to keep the program running despite all the challenges that come our way," Zapanta said.

Jones said Triple J is proud to be part of the players' success and the program that makes a big difference in the community.

"Teaming up—whether in sport or business—inspires people and communities, that's why this partnership makes sense. We have a collective vision for our island and its youth," Jones said.

Triple J Motors vows to continue coordinating with NMIFA to find ways to better support the association's program.

"The NMIFA has grown the league in numbers since its opening. It's heart-warming to see the tireless efforts of Jerry Tan, Ross Zapanta, and the NMIFA administration through the numerous groups of children practicing after school and playing on weekends and challenging one another at the NMI Soccer Training Center. Triple J Motors is proud to partner with NMIFA again to continue to grow the sport on Saipan. We look forward to co-facilitating sportsmanship, passion and perseverance in every youth member of the league," Triple J Motors general manager Sean Ficke said. **(PR)**

Volleyball games were suspended for a week, while the opening of the middle school basketball originally set for Sept. 18 was pushed back due to the issues with the MHS Gym. Inspections uncovered that the facility sustained additional damage on top of the ones caused by Super Typhoon Yutu last year, making the facility unsafe for after-school sports programs.

man averaged in twin digits in rebounds in their last three games.

Standish's teammate, Josh Andrew (11.4), IT&E's Paulo Rafols (11.3), TanHoldings' Michael Torregosa (11), and The Game's Jun Fidelino (9.8) rounded out the Top 5 rebounding leaders.

In the assists department, Schmidt's average of 7 leads IT&E's Sean Rabasto (5.2), AK Toyota's Jeff Borja (5), Santos (5), and Caravan's Sid Quan (4.6). Schmidt had 22 assists in Saipan Vegas's first two victories and 20 in the next four to keep their squad on top of the team standings.

New LA coach
claims Lakers
got best duo

PAGE 24



Saipan Tribune Sports



Scherzer, Nats
open playoffs
vs Brewers

PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rousing debut for Shirley's FC

4 players stand out in MIBL

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Halfway through the regular season of the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League, four players have put up impres-

sive numbers in the 10-team competition.



In the scoring department, The Game's Mak Mintac leads the league with his 27 points per game average. He had his best output

See 4 on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Game's Mak Mintac takes off for an uncontested shot during their game against Bridge Capital in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Football Club's Jedidah Peteru steps in on defense in an attempt to deflect the shot of Kanoa Football Club's Ruselle Zapanta during the first half of their Division B game in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club opened its campaign in Division B of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League with a 7-3 victory over Kanoa Football Club last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

A hat trick from Hoojin Woo right in the first half powered Shirley's to the convincing win. Woo delivered his first

goal in the 18th minute and the second one five minutes later. His third came late in the first half—42nd minute—allowing Shirley's to take a 3-1 advantage at the break.

Kanoa's lone goal in the opening 45 minutes of play came from Andruw Omelau, who hit his target in the 34th minute.

Then in the second half, Shirley's again lit up the board first, thanks to Woo's goal in the 47th minute. Shirley's pulled away further as it recorded two more goals in a span of six minutes—the first coming from Brandon Tenorio in the 52nd minute and the second from Irish Pagarao in the 58th.

While Shirley's had three quick goals in the second half, Kanoa countered with only one, courtesy of Ruselle Zapanta's conversion in the 63rd minute. Shirley's then retaliated in the 69th minute off Ariel Jinang's goal before JC Piring closed out for Kanoa in the 79th minute.

**Island Star 6,
NMI Women's 0**

In the other opening week



match in Division B, Island Star also cruised to victory after dominating the CNMI Women's National Team.

Saixian Bagsic lifted Island Star to the shutout win after scoring three goals. He notched a pair in the first half, posting his first goal in the 15th minute and the second one in the 37th before completing the hat trick in the 76th.

En San Cui, Ri Cheng Xian, and Xue Zhu Li were the other scorers for Island Star, as they hit the board in the first, 18th, and 62nd minute, respectively.

**DIVISION A
TanHoldings 3,
Old B Bank 2**

The lone Division A game was decided by one goal with TanHoldings getting the game-winner from Oliver Fajardo two minutes before the close match ended.

TanHoldings led at 2-0 in the first half off Martin Jambor's shot in the 26th minute and Kaden Church's goal in the 34th. However, TanHoldings was nearly forced to a draw when the Old B Bank launched a comeback in the second half.

See ROUSING on Page 27

Black Panthers, 2 others sweep opponents

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Black Panthers, We Are Groot, and the Old Aces topped their respective opponents in the Avengers Volleyball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Black Panthers bested the As Guardians in the first set of their game last Friday, 25-15, and completed the sweep with a 25-14 triumph in the second.

Also in last Friday's match, We Are Groot downed D'Challengers in the opening set, 25-15, and notched an even easier victory in the second, 25-7, for the straight

set win. We Are Groot had another game last week and this time it took them three sets to surpass As Guardians. We Are Groot came out the victor in the first set, 25-21, before losing its footing in the second, as it was subdued by the As Guardians, 25-17. In deciding third set, We Are Groot avenged their loss and escaped past the As Guardians, 15-13.

In other results, the Old Aces faced Straight Outta Nowhere in last Friday's set of matches and also dueled Iron and Spike last Wednesday.

Against the Straight Outta Nowhere, the Old Aces took a 25-23 victory. However,

See BLACK on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Black Panthers pose for a photo before their game against the As Guardians in the Avengers Volleyball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.